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Alatas, Dumas To Meet Cambodian Factions

BK1112080290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0648 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 11 (AFP)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Tuesday he and his French counterpart Roland Dumas will meet representatives of Cambodia's warring factions in Paris next week to discuss a draft agreement to end the 12-year old Cambodian conflict.

The two ministers, who co-chaired the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC) last year, will "present the Cambodian leaders with results achieved by the two co-chairmen in the Cambodian peace efforts," at the December 19-23 meeting Mr. Alatas said.

"The representatives of Cambodia should be the first to know of the draft."

The agreement was drafted by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council— Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union and China—along with Indonesia, in Paris in November.

Mr. Alatas and Mr. Dumas have been working a comprehensive peace settlement for Cambodia since a meeting of PICC senior officials agreed here in November on its "structure and approach."

Mr. Alatas said the meeting, proposed by Mr. Dumas, would lead to the reconvening of the PICC which was suspended in August 1989 after the four warring Cambodian factions failed to agree on a power-sharing arrangement.

The four parties—the Phnom Penh government installed by Hanoi in 1979 and a tripartite resistance coalition—have since agreed to form a Supreme National Council (SNC) to represent Cambodian sovereignty until elections are held under U.N. auspices.

But progress has been bogged down by a row over the appointment of resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk as SNC chairman, with Phnom Penh demanding the appointment of its Prime Minister Hun Sen as vice chairman as a counter-balance.

Mr. Alatas said that he and Mr. Dumas planned to hear out the representatives on the remaining problems of the SNC.

"We have to see what they want if we want to get a settlement," he said.

ASEAN Works 'More Closely' at GATT Meet

BK0812124890 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Excerpts] ASEAN has urged participating countries in the Uruguay round to refrain from taking actions which might undermine [words indistinct] multilateral negotiations. [Passage omitted covered by referent item]

Commenting on ASEAN's cooperation at the meeting, [Singapore Deputy Prime Minister] General Lee said it is one of the tough points at the talks. He said the ASEAN countries have worked more closely than in previous GATT meetings and although their stand on individual policy issues might not be identical, all have common views.

Japan

Kaifu on Possible Aid to USSR, Gorbachev Visit

OW1112081590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0621 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu indicated on Tuesday that Japan may give assistance to help the Soviet Union make up for shortages of food and basic consumer goods.

The government should consider what responses are possible from a "humanitarian standpoint," Kaifu said in a House of Councillors plenary session. He made the comment in reply to Akio Hosoya of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), who questioned him about Japan's response to empty store shelves reported across the Soviet Union.

Japan has pledged to make available emergency medical supplies, but has shied away from offering food, citing a bumper grain harvest this year in the Soviet Union, and an apparent breakdown in the distribution system.

The Soviet Union also does not qualify as an aid recipient, a category reserved for developing nations, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Kaifu reiterated his hope that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit here slated for next April will be an important turning point in bilateral relations.

"I hope that we will enter a new quality of relationship, and I will make serious effort to make advances on bilateral issues, including the territorial dispute" over four islands east of Hokkaido, he said.

Kaifu, responding to Komeito's Kazuyoshi Shirahama, said he also plans to keep in contact with Moscow and Beijing in a bid to create a favorable environment for resolving the tension on the Korean peninsula.

Kaifu reiterated his plans to seek new ways for Japan to contribute to international cooperation.

He acknowledged his responsibility for the death in the Diet last month of a bill which would have allowed Japanese military personnel to serve overseas for the first time since World War II, and urged the House of Councillors to cooperate in drawing up an alternative.

Despite the differences in opinions, there is a basic agreement that Japan should make available personnel, and not just financing, to international operations, Kaifu said in response to a question by the JSP's Hosoya.

He said a revised bill would be worked out based on the outline agreed among the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party.

The three parties have agreed that personnel to be sent abroad under the bill should not include members of the Self-Defense Forces.

Nakayama Hesitant To Provide Food Aid to USSR

OW1112043890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 (KYODO)—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama indicated Tuesday Japan may be unwilling to provide food and financial aid to the beleaguered Soviet Union in spite of signs Monday the United States will soon extend such assistance.

"Japan has never concluded a peace treaty with the Soviet Union and the issue of (the northern) territories remains," Nakayama said after a cabinet meeting Tuesday, stressing Japan's stance was different from the U.S.

In Houston on Monday, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union would appreciate food aid from America and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker indicated that President George Bush was likely to give his approval.

Nakayama, however, said Tuesday that Japan would observe the situation in the Soviet Union very closely.

"They had a successful harvest this year, but because of problems with transportation and hoarding, there are reports that food is in short supply," said Nakayama.

"The Soviet Union is a large nation and, on the one hand, they can launch a rocket, so they shouldn't say they don't have any money," Nakayama added.

Western nations have recently initiated efforts to provide emergency aid to the Soviet Union which, despite a good harvest this year, fears food shortages over the winter.

Soviets To Release More Japanese POW Documents

OW1112124090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Yamagata, Dec. 11 KYODO—The Soviet Union will provide more documents next month on Japanese prisoners of war who were held in Siberia and died after the end of World War II, a former Japanese internees group said Tuesday.

The All-Japan Former Internees Association said the Soviet-Japan Mutual Understanding Association, a private Soviet friendship group, will hand over the lists of about 2,000 Japanese prisoners of war who died in Tayshet, northwest of Lake Baykal, in mid-January.

The Soviet association provided the Japanese association with a list of 1,444 dead Japanese prisoners of war last week.

Of about 62,000 Japanese prisoners of war who died in Siberia, some 3,600 died in the Tayshet area, according to the Japanese association.

The Japanese association is planning to send a group of former internees in Siberia to visit graves of the dead Japanese prisoners of war next summer.

The association is also asking the Soviet Government to release documents on Japanese prisoners of war who died while being held in Mongolia.

The association said Mongolia's Red Cross President N. Shura will visit Japan at the invitation of the association and attend a symposium in Tokyo next Monday on the Japanese prisoners of war in Mongolia.

The association said it will ask him to release documents on the Japanese prisoners of war who died in Mongolia. About 20,000 Japanese prisoners of war were held in Mongolia and 2,000 of them died there, it said.

Hike in Share of U.S. Defense Burden Planned

OW1012150090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1445 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japanese Government officials on Monday told U.S. officials that Japan will gradually hike the share of its financial burden to support the 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan from fiscal 1991 beginning in April, Japanese defense sources said.

Japanese officials outlined the policy at Monday's Japan-U.S. informal defense meeting in Tokyo, the sources said.

The package will involve shouldering, in about five years, some 90 billion yen for salaries for Japanese employees at U.S. bases and other maintenance costs.

Japan will begin paying out from fiscal 1991, a year ahead of the end of existing arrangements, the sources said.

The two sides, however, failed to reach a final agreement as the United States is calling on Japan to cover more costs than those of electricity, gas and water supply charges proposed by Japan.

The U.S. delegation to the talks is led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Carl W. Ford, Jr., and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Desaix Anderson.

The Japanese team is headed by Shigeru Hatakeyama, the Defense Agency's defense policy bureau chief, and Koichiro Matsuura, director general of the Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau.

The U.S. side demanded the advanced implementation of the increase, by stressing that the U.S. military budget has been tightened by the deployment of troops to the Persian Gulf, the Japanese sources said.

They also noted that unless Japan could substantially boost its share of the host-nation support cost every year, sentiment toward Japan in the U.S. Congress as well as the public would be hardened.

The Japanese negotiators basically agreed on the advanced share increase, with the reservation that the final adjustment with the Finance Ministry is yet to be made.

On the next defense program to be decided by the Cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu later this month, the Japanese side told the U.S. team that it will be a five-year plan and will be reviewed in the third year, and the total sum of the projected budget for the plan will be clarified.

Japanese officials have said earlier Japan plans to inform the United States of its willingness to take on a larger part of the cost of maintaining the U.S. troops stationed in Japan, under a bilateral military accord, beyond the 168 billion yen budget for fiscal 1990.

The budget covers base maintenance and personnel costs. If land rents, noise prevention, and other peripheral costs are included, Japan's payments to the U.S. forces reached 440 billion yen.

The Japanese Government plans to gradually expand the share of its host-nation costs from the current 35 percent to 50 percent of the total outlay under a burden-sharing plan to be implemented beginning fiscal 1991, government officials said.

New Okinawan Governor Comments on U.S. Bases

OW1112025490 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1300 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Summary of newly elected Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota's first press conference, recorded at his prefectural government office on 10 December]

[Text] [As Ota begins speaking, the caption "Regarding 'New Ishigaki Airport'" is shown on screen] Because this is a very delicate and difficult issue I will have briefings on the current situation first. Then, I will listen carefully, once again, to opinions of various people, including the heads of departments and bureaus concerned with the issue, as well as the people of Yaeyama. After that, I will make my own decisions on its early settlement and on starting the airport construction in a way the people in Yaeyama District expect.

[The caption "Regarding 'Tree Planting Festival'" is shown on screen] We still have some time before holding the tree planting festival. This is also a major issue and there is a whirlpool of pros and cons. Thus, I would like to deal with this issue in a more prudent manner rather than taking one-sided actions. I myself have not yet seen the outline of the tree planning festival so I cannot comment at this stage on how I will decide.

[The caption "Regarding 'the Appointment of Women'" is shown on screen] To tell you the truth, I quickly have checked the staff list of the prefectural government. I have noticed that, although there are many women in the posts of chief clerk or assistant section head, they are hardly involved in the decision-making process. To gradually improve such a situation, I would like to reform the system and establish something like a women's department [shitsu], if I can obtain the approval of the prefectural assembly. I am thinking seriously about the possibility of providing more opportunities for women in each department.

[The caption "Regarding 'the Military Base Issue'" is shown on screen] I think that high officials of the U.S. Government are not necessarily understanding the actual situation of the military bases on Okinawa. Thus, first of all, we have to explain not only to the high officials of the U.S. Government but also to the U.S. mass media details of the actual situation of the base issue that Okinawa faces. At the same time, we also have to make the U.S. Congress understand the situation by all means. I would like to visit the United States at an early stage to conduct negotiations in the manner I have just explained. To do that, I am planning to call on the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. Embassy, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, and other relevant organizations for their cooperation.

Kaifu Tries To Ease Discord Over Rice Issue

OW1112055890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0503 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is faced with a tough task as he tries to overcome the discord between various ministries concerning Japan's stance on rice and other farm issues, in advance of the scheduled resumption, early next year, of the deadlocked multilateral trade talks.

Kaifu, in a cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning, instructed cabinet members to hold talks within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to seek a consensus on Japan's position on rice liberalization. "I want you to reaffirm Japan's basic farm policy," Kaifu said, referring to support for Japanese self-sufficiency in rice, one of the nation's staple foods.

The action apparently is intended to resolve the differences between the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto suggested Monday that the government should offer some compromise on its rice import ban, touching off fierce opposition from the Farm Ministry.

With the Uruguay Round of trade talks set to resume in January, Japan must decide on its rice policy, and is facing increasing criticism from foreign countries which consider Japan's stance to be detrimental to free trade.

The four-year round, being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), came to a standstill last week, hamstrung by the wide gulf between the U.S. and the European Community (EC) on farm trade reforms. The talks were due to be concluded by the end of the year.

Yamamoto Opposes Rice Talks With U.S.

OW1112043190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 (KYODO)—Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Tomio Yamamoto on Tuesday dismissed the idea of holding bilateral talks on rice between the United States and Japan, as proposed by the Foreign Ministry on Monday.

"What the Foreign Ministry is doing or wants to do is none of our business, but we are opposed to such talks," he told a press conference after a cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning.

Yamamoto's remarks came in the wake of reports that the Foreign Ministry is considering negotiations on agriculture with the U.S. Government before the resumption in January of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, which came to a standstill due to the wide gulf between the U.S. and the European Community (EC) over farm trade reforms.

The four-year talks, being held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), were due to conclude by the end of this year.

Further on Yamamoto's Remarks

OW1112051190 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] At a cabinet meeting held this morning, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Tomio Yamamoto discussed the delicate remarks made by Minister of International Trade and Industry Kabun Muto yesterday in connection with the ministerial meeting of the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks. Minister Muto told a news conference yesterday that he thinks the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries will take some kind of action now that the international community's atmosphere encompassing the opening of farm produce markets has been made known.

He said that Minister Muto made the remarks just when Japan is considering making further efforts for the success of the Uruguay Round while adhering to the traditional policy of self-sufficiency for rice. The minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries then said that this is a nuisance and expressed regrets at Mr. Muto's remarks.

Government-LDP Panel on GATT Talks Set Up

OW1112151790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1413 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Tuesday instructed government and ruling party officials to form a panel to coordinate Japan's policies on the stalled GATT global trade talks, officials said.

The political initiative came after an intensive series of ministerial meetings under the auspices of GATT—the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—broke down in Brussels last week without finalizing a set of new free trade rules.

The government-Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) panel will likely serve as an arena for behind-the-scenes wrangling over various conflicting interests while formulating concessions Tokyo could make to get the suspended trade talks moving toward a successful conclusion.

Discussions among government and LDP officials are expected to evolve around rice, as protection of the country's rice market has been Japan's top priority in the 107-nation Uruguay Round of world trade negotiations.

The trade talks, which began four years ago with the aim of drafting new rules on free trade in agriculture and 14 other sectors, adjourned last Friday without an agreement due to a dispute between the United States and the European Community over how to reduce farm subsidies.

Japan has argued that its ban on rice imports must be maintained as an exemption from such free trade rules, so as to ensure self-sufficiency in the staple.

The inward-looking Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been a tough advocate of protection of the rice market and has not shown any sign of a change in its stance on banning all imports of rice.

"I can't imagine the United States and the EC ironing out their differences on agriculture in a month or two. So it will take at least half a year before specific issues such as rice go to the GATT negotiating table," an official at the Agriculture Ministry said.

Other government officials have refrained from talking publicly of the possibility of opening the rice market, but some suggest partial liberalization would be acceptable to save the suspended trade talks.

Japan has so far criticized a farm proposal put forward last week at the Brussels gathering for paying no attention to national self-sufficiency in basic foodstuffs.

The proposal, presented by Swedish Agriculture Minister Mats Hellstrom who chairs a group of farm trade negotiators in the GATT talks, would require countries to import at least 5 percent of domestic consumption.

The requirement would be applied to all farm products on which import restrictions are imposed, beginning in 1991-92. The EC and South Korea rejected the proposal as a basis for discussion, while the United States accepted it.

Some government and LDP officials privately said the proposal would be better than a U.S. proposal calling for phasing out all nontariff import restrictions and replacing them by tariffs, because such tariffs could later be forced down.

"Partial liberalization, in other words, by around 3 percent of the rice market, would be better than tariffication that could end up with full opening," said one of LDP members backed by farmers.

A government source acknowledged that the issue of rice has served as a "fetter" preventing Japan from freely formulating a stance in the GATT negotiations, suggesting that rice will remain a major focus in talks among government and LDP officials until the GATT talks resume, perhaps as early as January.

Oil Industry 'Little Affected' by Saudi Cutbacks

OW1012031290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0202 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Japan will be little affected by Saudi Arabia's decision to suspend shipments of kerosene and gas oil from the Jubayl refinery to Japan as there are ample inventories of those products, oil industry sources said Monday.

Saudi Arabian Marketing and Refining Co., the state products company, has stopped its sales of gas oil and jet fuel from the export refineries at Jubayl, Rabigh, and Yanbu to cover the lost production from Ras Tanurah due to repair work.

Instead, the middle distillates will be supplied to the multinational military forces in Saudi Arabia.

Japanese oil and trading companies were told over the weekend that there would be no kerosene or gas oil available from Jubayl for export until further notice.

But the industry source said, "Japan will be little affected even if shipments of such petroleum products are halted entirely."

The Persian Gulf crisis, triggered by the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, prompted the domestic oil industry to boost production of kerosene and gas oil.

More recently, however, it reduced refining volume and imports of such products because demand remained sluggish due to the unusually warm weather, the sources said.

An official at Nippon Oil Co. said the Saudi action "had been expected" and will cause little anxiety in terms of supply volume and international market prices.

Petroleum products from the Jubayl refinery account for a mere 2 percent of Japan's overall imports of crude oil and petroleum products, according to the industry sources.

Sanyo Plans Representative Office in SRV

OW1012111990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Osaka, Dec. 10 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. said Monday it plans to send the Japanese household appliance industry's first permanently stationed representative to Vietnam after applying to its government for a license to create a representative office there.

The Vietnamese Government is trying to shift its production base away from heavy industries and toward consumer goods as it proceeds with talks aimed at normalizing relations with the United States.

The move was prompted by Sanyo's belief that Vietnam, which has a population of approximately 65 million, has the potential to grow into a major market.

Sanyo hopes to dispatch Tran Huynh Long, 52, a Canadian national originally from Vietnam to the Indochinese country. He will move to Vietnam as an employee of Sanyo Electric Trading Co. to gather information. He was once a joint venture partner with Sanyo when it created a plant in Vietnam.

Long, who also worked at Sanyo's U.S. subsidiary after fleeing from Vietnam following the 1975 fall of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), was selected as the firm's representative there because of his experience with the company and because Vietnamese is his native language.

Sanyo, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., and Sony Corp., had once produced radios and black and white television sets at plants established jointly with local firms there before the Vietnam war.

However, the three Japanese consumer electronic firms left the country after the then southern capital of Saigon fell to the communists.

The state-run Vietnamese Enterprise Vietronics has taken over the plants, and currently imports and assembles color television parts from Victor Co. of Japan and small-sized videocassette recorder parts from Sony.

A Sanyo official said, "We'd be willing to reestablish a joint venture there if Vietnam would return the plants" which they had virtually seized from it.

Sanyo made the decision to dispatch Long because it did not want to wait for U.S.-Vietnam relations to improve. "If we were to wait until the U.S. lifted its economic blockade on Vietnam before making such a move, it would just be too late," he said.

Companies To Form Chamber of Commerce in Berlin

OW0812034890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0226 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Berlin, Dec. 7 KYODO—Japanese companies with local operations will establish a chamber of commerce and industry in January, company officials said Friday.

The chamber will be made up of the Japanese corporations, which have offices in Berlin and five states of eastern Germany, they said.

As of the beginning of this year, about 15 Japanese companies had offices in Berlin.

But the reunification of East and West Germany has prompted Japanese banks and trading houses to move in rapidly, boosting the number to more than 50.

Hashimoto on Conduct of Fiscal, Monetary Policy

OW1012051990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0455 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 10 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the Diet on Monday his conduct of fiscal and monetary policy will take full account of the effects on the world economy of the Persian Gulf crisis and economic reforms in the Soviet Union and East European countries.

In a fiscal policy speech made at the House of Representatives in the ordinary Diet session, convened on Monday to discuss the fiscal 1990 supplementary budget, Hashimoto said the world economy is showing sustained growth.

However, careful attention should be paid to the effects of tensions in the Middle East, the reunification of East and West Germany, and economic reforms in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe on the world economy, Hashimoto said.

He also said that although the impact of higher crude oil prices has not been as large as in the past two oil shocks, it is important to seek to conduct fiscal and monetary policy while taking into full consideration the effects of the Gulf crisis on domestic prices and economic growth.

To help restore peace and stability in the Persian Gulf, the minister said, the government has decided to give 2 billion dollars in aid to multinational forces in the Gulf region in the form of transport, goods, medical and financial assistance, and economic cooperation to the same value as that given to surrounding "frontline" nations.

The Japanese economy has been showing a domestic demand-led growth for the last four years. However, price trends should be watched carefully, considering the tight labor market and the rise in crude oil prices, he said.

Touching on the government's efforts to rehabilitate the deficit-ridden national finances, Hashimoto noted the outstanding balance of government bond issues is still high at 164 trillion yen.

It is "vital" to build a fiscal framework whereby the outstanding balance of government bond issues will not increase cumulatively, he said.

The government should not continue to float deficit-financing bonds, but should steadily reduce the ratio of government bond issue amounts to revenues for the general account in the state budget, he said.

Regarding tax reforms, Hashimoto showed his intention to press ahead with reform of the land tax system, saying the government intends to submit a new land tax bill, centering on the introduction of a land holding tax, to the current Diet session.

The fiscal 1990 supplementary budget totals 2,281 billion yen, bringing the general account budget for the fiscal year to 68,517.8 billion yen, he said.

Article Views Tropical Timber Imports

OW0812143890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810 GMT 8 Dec 90

[By Keiichi Hirose]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 8 KYODO—Despite international concern its imports of tropical timber are affecting the environment and lives of forest dwellers in tropical regions, Japan's private sector and related official agencies appear little motivated to develop alternatives.

Japan's tropical timber imports, the largest in the world, are often the cause of complaint over alleged destruction of ecological systems in Malaysia, the disappearance of trees, fruits, birds, animals and other resources forest dwellers depend on, as well as the accompanying desecration of graveyards and hunting places.

A delegation of forest dwellers from Malaysia, which supplies 90 percent of Japan's Southeast Asian timber imports was joined by activists from Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Fund and other international groups at last month's International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) council session in Yokohama.

Despite their presence, the session of the Japan-based world logging body failed to implement a proposal for a reduced logging target to save the up to 400,000 indigenous people in the Malaysian State of Sarawak which now supplies 53 percent of Japan's Malaysian timber. Logging is on the increase in Sarawak since marketable forests are rapidly being depleted in neighboring Sabah State, formerly the biggest supplier to Japan.

Japan imported 12.4 million cubic meters of tropical timber in 1989. It has depleted sources in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia and is now turning to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. A small amount of logs also comes from Myanmar [Burma], Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Roughly one third of Japan's wood consumption is for construction. Another third is used in paper which does not rely heavily on tropical wood. The remainder is for miscellaneous purposes like furniture production. Dependence on domestic logs is very low because of the costs involved.

Many ecologists and construction experts agree Japan must cut its prolific use of tropical logs for plywood panels in moldings for concrete walls, columns or staircases.

The method was popularized after the economic boom in the 1960s because of its flexibility and low cost compared to metal frames. An alternative to this method is the key to reducing Japan's tropical timber needs, as experts estimate some 30 percent of all plywood used is for these panels which are often dumped shortly after use in the initial construction stage.

Over 80 percent of imported tropical logs are made into plywood in Japan.

But the government appears to be moving slowly on the matter.

The Construction Ministry has yet to offer any positive guidelines, but has decided to set aside part of its budget for "research" into the situation from next spring at the start of fiscal 1991, ministry research engineer Osamu Shimoyasu said.

Shimoyasu agreed there is a need for action, but said there is no ready alternative to the wood panels which meet Japan's requirement for limited space but unlimited shapes. He pointed to the need, at least, to reuse the same wooden panel and alternate their use with concrete panels especially on less-complicated large-scale construction sites.

Significantly, one Forestry Agency official revealed his view that Japan's administrators favor "sustainable forest production" abroad. He said this meant Japan is "not in the mood" to push for a radical cut in consumption.

Driven partly by a growing shortage of experienced carpenters, some of Japan's major construction firms have begun moving away from wood panels. Their trials include the pre-cast method using mass-produced concrete panels, but this suits only standardized big buildings and is still costly.

One of the most active experimenters is Obayashi Corp., a major construction firm whose immediate goal is to shift from tropical wood to a stable supply of quick-growing New Zealand conifers.

But even this short-term goal poses problems such as sap leakage and smell and the presence of tree rings unique to conifers. Surfaces must still be covered with tropical wood for the plywood panels. Kenji Sakai, Obayashi's global environment department chief, said the Japanese method is so prevalent among carpenters that it will take them time to get used to the new idea.

Sakai hopes Obayashi can ultimately develop a timber-free molding method with a special cement, but this is still a long-term projection. He said he hopes the efforts toward a new method can, in some form, be shown at the 1992 United Nations environment conference in Brazil.

Japanese trading firms dealing in logs are also slow to respond to criticism. Many ecologists say the firms' efforts to improve the situation are non-existent.

In a recent meeting in Tokyo between officials of Nissho Iwai Corp. and Sarawak natives and environmentalists from Japan, the U.S. and Australia, one executive said the firm is conducting a drive to "raise awareness" among its employees of the need to conserve the environment.

But another top businessman in the firm said a campaign to cut log buying would create "business problems." He advocated a "development effect" by using logs even in projects in Sarawak.

The suggestion prompted an immediate outcry at the meeting. Malaysian delegates responded by admitting they need hospitals and other facilities but denied they wanted this at the expense of their lifestyle and right to use the land.

Hundreds of Malaysian forest dwellers complain they have been charged as criminal offenders by Malaysian authorities for blockading logging roads that destroy the forests.

North Korea

Reportage Covering Third High-Level Talks

Delegation Enters Panmunjom

SK1112022890 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0200 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Our side's delegation led by Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, which will attend the third North-South High-Level Talks, entered the South side's area in Panmunjom this morning. Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; the chairman of the Kaesong People's Committee; the chairman of the Kaesong Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee; responsible officials of labor organizations in Kaesong; and our side's officials of the Military Armistice Commission saw off the delegation in front of Panmungak. At 1000 this morning, our delegates, suite members, and reporters entered the South side's area of Panmunjom as escorted by the South side's officials for the talks. South Korean children presented bouquets to the members of our delegation. After exchanging greetings with members of the South side's delegation, our delegation left for Seoul by car.

Yon Hyong-muk Arrives in Seoul

SK1112043190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0415 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Our side's delegation led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, suite members, and reporters arrived in Seoul at 1200 this afternoon to attend the third North-South High-Level Talks. Our side's delegation was received by the South side's officials for the talks.

Spokesman Issues Statement

SK1112111590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul December 11 (KCNA correspondent)—The North side's delegation headed by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, arrived in Seoul today to participate in the third round of the inter-Korean high-level talks.

The delegation was greeted by the South side's officials concerning the talks with Kang Yong-hun as chief delegate.

An Pyong-su, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, who is a spokesman for the North side's delegation, made public a statement on the delegation's arrival in Seoul at the Silla Hotel, its lodging.

In the statement he expressed sincere thanks to Seoul citizens and other compatriots in the South for warmly greeting and welcoming the delegation and its suite members as the mission of reunification.

Their way to Seoul was not smooth and difficulties are lying ahead of the talks, but our delegation set out on the road to the talks, bearing everything with magnanimity and broad-mindedness, he noted.

Saying that the day has gone when the debate on reunification was the monopoly of the privileged and the reunification movement was incriminated, he queried whether the reality is necessary for anyone of our nation, the reality that it does not matter that authorities come and go to meet with each other but it is dealt with by law that the civilians, unable to meet with one another in their country and in their land, meet in an alien land. [sentence as received]

In order to do away with the old leftovers of such political confrontation, an obstacle to national unity and the reunification of the country, the third talks should be held successfully, he pointed out, adding:

The North side's delegation will table progressive proposals of epochal significance for guaranteeing peace in the country and achieving its peaceful reunification and make every possible effort with sincerity to reach an agreement.

N,S Premiers State Positions

SK1112151690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul December 11 (KCNA correspondent)—"Prime Minister" of the South side Kang Yong-hun arranged a dinner this evening for the delegation of the North side which arrived in Seoul for the third North-South High-Level Talks.

Present on invitation were Premier Yon Hyong-muk, head of the North side's delegation, and the delegates, suite members and reporters.

Officials concerned and personages of various circles of the South side were also present.

Yon Hyong-muk in his speech said that what is urgent and vital to us is to eliminate the military confrontation and avert a war. He continued:

To defuse the military confrontation is an indispensable prerequisite to national reconciliation and confidence-building between the North and the South and to remove the danger of war is a most urgent task that must be carried out by our nation before anything else.

Peace can be practically ensured in our country only when the North and the South adopt a nonaggression declaration promising nonuse of arms against each other and reduce armament stage by stage.

This is the very reason why we raised the issue of adopting a nonaggression declaration as the first and foremost task to be solved at the North-South High-Level Talks and why we are making efforts with all sincerity for its realization.

The North side's delegation will make every possible effort with sincerity to successfully resolve the problems on the agenda of the third round of talks so as to live up to the unanimous expectation of the 70 million fellow countrymen in the North and the South who hope to see a practical measure taken for peace of the country, he stressed.

In his speech, Kang Yong-hun said:

I am very glad to meet the North side's delegation for the third time to remove confrontation and tension and solve the knotty problem. It meeting is repeated, trust will be built up. [sentence as received]

Further on Initial Statements

SK1112070290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0450 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Our side's delegation led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, to attend the third round of North-South High-Level Talks arrived in Seoul at 1200 on 11 December.

The suite members and reporters also arrived with the delegation. The South side's relevant officials greeted our side's delegation.

There were practically no signs of life seen in the villages and streets when the delegation was heading from Panmunjom to Seoul. Only young people wearing jackets were walking up and down at the entrance of villages, bus stations, stores and gas stations in the section from Panmunjom to Munsan, and no villagers could be seen.

When the motorcade of our side's delegation arrived in Seoul, the atmosphere changed. Despite the cold weather, the fellow countrymen in the South waved to our delegation's motorcade from residential areas and streets. The students of the South, who seemed to be university students, tightly grasped their two hands and expressed signs of warm welcome by jumping up and down.

A number of citizens from old men to children from windows of houses and moving buses gave warm greetings with their eyes to our delegation, which came to Seoul for success in the third round of North-South High-Level Talks following the first round of talks. Thus, they warmly welcomed our side's delegation by waving.

Firm resolution was reflected in each of their faces to please their fellow countrymen who cannot live separately for a moment more because the fatherland is one and the people are one, to realize free visits and comprehensive openness between the North and the South by demolishing the barriers of division without fail, and to make the 1990's a historic decade for national reunification.

An Pyong-su, spokesman of our side's delegation, issued a statement at the Shilla Hotel, our delegation's headquarters, for reporters from the North, the South, and abroad in connection with our delegation's arrival in Seoul.

[Begin An recording] This is a statement of arrival in Seoul.

Dear citizens of Seoul and fellow countrymen in the South:

Reporters at home and abroad:

Cherishing a lofty desire to open a turning point for peace and peaceful reunification, our delegation from the North side to the North-South High-Level Talks arrived here in Seoul for the second time today, which falls on 100th day since the first round of talks in September.

Our delegation expresses, first of all, sincere thanks to the citizens of Seoul and to the fellow countrymen in the South who warmly greeted our delegation on the streets of Seoul as the envoys of reunification. Our delegation conveys warm compatriotic greetings from citizens of Pyongyang and brothers in the North.

Our delegation could not repress its mixed feelings toward the way ahead [chinro] of the current third round of talks while coming to Seoul with depressed feelings as if our visit were for the first time.

Although we have put forward good proposals capable of leading us to detente and peace and have strived to realize them, we have not been able to bring about any positive results for the people, as demonstrated by the outcome of the past two rounds of full-dress talks and three rounds of contacts between working delegates.

Our delegation, which had to return home empty-handed from the first round of talks in Seoul, without achieving any results, does not want to see the same outcome in Seoul this time around.

Efforts to fulfill our people's desire for peace should not be postponed any longer. Nor should the people's dream about reconciliation and cooperation be left to remain a dream.

Proceeding from this standpoint, our delegation has magnanimously taken the road of talks, even though the road leading to Seoul was not smooth and a host of obstacles may stand in the way of talks, with a determination to endure everything, to be magnanimous in approaching the talks, only out of a desire to fulfill this national desire at any cost.

To be honest, gone are the days when debates over the reunification question were monopolized by some people and the reunification movement was regarded as heresy. The people in authority meet each other in Pyongyang and Seoul and nothing happens to them, whereas the civilians, having no way of meeting each other in their own country and land, go abroad for meetings, running the risk of being subjected to legal action. Who among our people needs this reality now when they foresee reunification within the nineties?

If for no other reason than to remove such an outdated legacy of political confrontation that obstructs national reconciliation and reunification, we think we should hold the third round of the talks in a way that will successfully live up to the people's expectations.

In order to live up to the expectations of the people at home and abroad who show interest in the current round of talks, we in the North side's delegation will make every sincere effort possible to advance progressive and significant proposals to guarantee peace and achieve peaceful reunification and agreement on them.

I hope that people from all walks of life and figures from all factions and standings in South Korea will extend positive support for the third round of the North-South High-Level Talks, the last talks to be held before the end of this year and talks that will act as a bridge to our talks in the next year, so that the talks will bear wonderful fruit.

Thank you. [end recording]

'Full Text' of Kim Il-song Interview

SK1112111890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)— The great leader President Kim Il-song gave answers to questions raised by the president of the Nepal Journalists Association on November 29, 1990.

The Nepalese weekly ARPAN December 7 carried the full text of the answers.

NODONG SINMUN today carries the full text of the answers.

The full text follows: Question: The chuche idea propounded by President Kim Il-song has won worldwide appreciation and this apart, this idea has influenced deeply both the Communist and anti-communist camps throughout the world equally. Your excellency, will you please explain what is the inspiring element behind this idea and about its impact on mankind? Answer: The chuche idea is, essentially, a man-centred outlook on the world; it is a revolutionary thought for the popular masses to realize their independence. The chuche idea shows the correct way for man to shape his destiny on the basis of the philosophical principle that man is the master of everything and decides everything. It was not until our people, who had long fought against all manner of domination and subjugation and for their social and class emancipation and national liberation, acquired the chuche idea that they were able to become the true masters of their own destiny and shape it successfully by their own efforts.

The degree of influence a progressive idea has on historical progress depends on how accurately this idea reflects the people's aspirations and the requirements of the period. You have said that the chuche idea has won worldwide appreciation and deeply influenced the world. I think this is precisely because the chuche idea reflects the popular masses' aspiration to independence and the requirements of our time and lights the path for them to follow in their struggle for independence.

To live independently, free from any form of domination and all fetters, is the natural desire of social man. No one in this world wishes to live as the slave of another person. It is the common desire of all people to shape their destiny independently as the masters of the world; it is the requirement of this age to do away with any form of domination and subjugation and build an independent new world of which the popular masses are the true masters.

The popular masses themselves are capable of realizing their independence. Man is the most powerful being in the world. Man has the creative ability to shape his own destiny. People, when united firmly into a social collective, acquire tremendous strength, and their united strength constitutes the decisive factor in the transformation of nature and society.

The popular masses shape their destiny through the revolution and construction which are aimed at transforming nature and society. The chuche idea displays the revolutionary truth that the popular masses are the masters of the revolution and construction as well as the driving force behind them and that, when they promote them with an attitude befitting masters and from an unshakable standpoint of independence and creativity, they will surely emerge victorious. When they have become aware of this revolutionary truth, the people become conscious of their historical mission, believe in their own strength and fight for their independence. It is natural and reasonable that the popular masses with the spirit of independence follow the path to independence.

The proud history of our people's struggle proves the validity of the chuche idea. Through the people's struggle for independence, future events will prove the validity and vitality of the chuche idea more clearly.

Q: It is indeed quite astonishing that at a time when in most countries of the world Communist establishments are collapsing and when imperialist forces are conspiring to eliminate communism, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should be able not only in holding steadfastly to this ideology of communism but also in taking its people ahead on the path of all-round progress on the basis of same political philosophy. Your excellency, will you please explain what is the driving force behind this in your country?

A: Owing to the imperialists' manoeuvres against socialism, the present situation is very complicated. The serious antagonism and struggle between socialism and imperialism are continuing in the international arena and, in the course of this, various unexpected and complex events are taking place in succession.

Nevertheless, our people, under the unfurled banner of revolution, are continuing to advance steadfastly along the broad of socialism without the slightest vacillation. In fact, it is at our country that the imperialists are aiming the spearhead of their anti-socialist manoeuvres. In the situation in which their country is divided and they are in direct confrontation with the imperialists, our people are working hard to build socialism and reunify their country. In our country acute conflicts between socialism and imperialism are taking place. Nevertheless, our people are holding fast to the cause of socialism with an unshakable determination, and many people now want to know our secret.

Socialism in our country is forging ahead triumphantly even in the present complex situation because, above all else, the guiding ideology of our revolution is correct and our people's confidence in socialism is firm. In order to build socialism successfully, it is imperative to have a correct guiding ideology. The guiding ideology plays the role of a compass in the socio-historical advance. The construction of socialism and communism is the most sacred cause for realizing the ideal of mankind and a difficult struggle to blaze a trail. The countries building socialism have different characteristics and are in different situations. It is impossible, therefore, to build socialism successfully by copying ready-made formulae or the methods employed by other countries without one's own correct guiding ideology. This is clearly shown by the lessons of some other countries which are suffering setbacks and chaos in socialist construction today.

The Korean people have built an excellent socialism of their own style on this land by applying their own guiding ideology, the chuche idea; their socialism is developing steadily on the solid foundations of independence, self-sufficiency and self-reliant national defence.

The essential feature of our socialism, in which the chuche idea has been embodied in all respects, lies in the fact that ours is a genuine people's society of which the popular masses are the true masters and in which everything serves the masses. Under our socialist system our people's past lot has changed radically and all the members of our society are realizing their hopes and ideals, enjoying happy and worth-while lives to the full. They are now leading a most valuable political life as independent people with complete political freedom and rights, and are enjoying noble and rich ideological and cultural lives as well as a sound and equitable material life.

Through their experience our people have become convinced that the man-centred socialist society of our own style is the best society, meeting man's intrinsic desire to live independently free from exploitation and oppression; they feel great pride in and a strong attachment for the socialist life they are leading. In our country socialism has taken deep root in the minds of the people and their faith in socialism can never be broken.

Socialism in our country continues to advance boldly and triumphantly also because our party is mighty and the party and the popular masses are united solidly in mind and purpose. The working-class party is the leading political organization and it guides the revolution and construction to victory; it is the hard core of the driving force of the revolution. Therefore, the strength of the party and the leadership role it plays are the decisive factors in the victory of the revolution and construction.

The Workers' Party of Korea is the revolutionary party of chuche that has grown from deep roots in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle; it is a veteran party which has rich fighting experience and seasoned leadership capability. Our party is leading the cause of socialism along the road of victory with correct fighting objectives and revolutionary policies based on the chuche idea.

In our country the unconquerable Workers' Party of Korea now stands firmly at the centre of the revolutionary ranks, and the popular masses, who have shared their destiny with the party during the long-drawn-out revolutionary struggle, are united closely behind the party. Our party believes in the masses as a source of inexhaustible strength and depends on them in the fight; our people entrust their destiny entirely to the party and support its leadership with loyalty. Nothing can ever break the unity and cohesion of our party and the popular masses that have been welded into a single socio-political organism.

The fact that the great Workers' Party of Korea is leading the revolution and construction and that the party and the masses have been welded into a socio-political organism, into the unbreakable driving force of our revolution, constitutes the indestructible source of our socialism as well as a sure guarantee for all our victories.

No matter how complex the world situation is and no matter what winds may blow, our party and our people are fully determined to follow the road of socialism to the end. Our socialism may encounter tortuous events as it advances, but there is not a shadow of doubt that it will triumph. Our people are fully convinced and optimistic that the further the building of socialism progresses, the better life they will enjoy. They will accomplish the cause of socialism brilliantly by working harder under the unfurled banner of the chuche idea.

Q: Efforts for achieving reunification of Korea are on and only recently high-level negotiations too were held. The DPRK right from the beginning has desired a quick accomplishment of this objective of peaceful national reunification without any foreign interference. Even the entire peace-loving people of the world too have been expressing their ardent hope for this reunification. Will your excellency shed some light on the solution of this issue?

A: Our party and the government of our republic have consistently maintained the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity in their efforts to achieve national reunification.

These three principles represent the standpoint and will of our own nation with regard to the question of national reunification. These three principles for reunifying the nation are the most reasonable programme for national reunification that accords with the desire of all Koreans for independence and with their fundamental interests and also conforms with the trend of our time and the aspirations of the progressive people of the world.

The most realistic and reasonable way to reunify our country independently, peacefully and on the principle of great national unity is to combine the North and the South into a confederal state.

The policy of the government of our republic on establishing the democratic confederal republic of Koryo is to unite the North and the South into a single state, leaving the ideas and social systems in the North and South as they are, and effecting regional autonomy within the state by which the North and the South exercise equal rights and perform equal duties. At present, different ideas and social systems exist in the North and the South of our country. In these circumstances the only way to reunify the country fairly and peacefully without one side conquering the other and one being conquered by the other is to establish a confederation which is based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

At present, some people in South Korea support the "unification of systems" by copying the method by which another country was unified. This means extending one side's social system to the other. In the situation in our country it is impossible to reunify the country by amalgamating systems. If the North or the South were to force its own ideology and social system on the other side and extend them to it, the country would never be reunified and, worse still, conflicts involving fratricide would inevitably ensue between the North and the South. The "unification of systems" means, in the final analysis, rejecting national reunification. It is nothing but camouflage for those who are trying to keep the country divided.

Reunifying the country into one nation and one state leaving separate systems and separate governments in the North and the South of Korea is not only a feasible reunification proposal, but also a just policy suited to the actual situation in our country. As it envisages our country developing as a neutral state after reunification, not as a satellite of any other nation, the proposal conforms with the wishes of the peoples of the countries neighbouring ours and the peace-loving people around the world.

The foremost, most pressing task in realizing national reunification is to ease the tension on the Korean peninsula and create a peaceful climate for national reunification.

On both sides of the military demarcation line dividing the North and the South of our country enormous armed forces confront each other. This is the cause of the constant tension on the Korean peninsula. Without easing the tension, it is impossible to end the misunderstanding and distrust between North and South, bring about national reconciliation and unity and achieve the country's reunification peacefully. From sincere desire to ease the tension on the Korean peninsula and ensure peace, the government of our Republic maintains that a nonaggression declaration between North and South be adopted, that a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States be signed, and that the armed forces in North and South be reduced, by stages, each to a level lower than 100,000 men.

If our proposal is put into effect, it will be possible to end the confrontation and the state of armistice which have continued to date on the Korean peninsula, eliminate distrust and misunderstanding between North and South and create a favourable climate for national reunification.

To develop dialogue is an important way to find a peaceful settlement of the question of the reunification of our country.

Because the reunification of the country is an important issue affecting the destiny of the whole nation, the dialogue for reunification must be dialogue for the whole nation, a democratic representation of the will of administrative authorities, political parties, social organizations and the people from all walks of life. Talks between high-level delegations, headed by the prime ministers, are now being held by North and South for the first time since the division of the nation. I think that this is a good thing which improves the prospects for North-South relations and reunifying the country. In the future, too, we will make every effort to broaden and develop dialogue for reunification between North and South in various fields, particularly the North-South High-Level Talks.

The cause of reunification is a cause for the whole nation to achieve the independence of our nation, and the driving force for national reunification is the entire Korean nation. All our fellow countrymen in North, South and abroad unanimously desire the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and have courageously taken up the cause of national reunification under the banner of great national unity. Today, the trend towards our nation's reunification has mounted higher than ever, and the movement for the reunification of the country is developing to new heights.

The progressive people of the world are giving strong support and encouragement to our people in their cause for the reunification of their country.

It is a historical inevitability that a nation which has been divided artificially by outside forces is reunified. No matter what schemes those at home and abroad who wish to keep the country divided may employ, they can neither break the unshakable will of the entire nation to reunify the country, nor check the general trend of the time towards national reunification. We have an optimistic view of the prospects for national reunification. We are convinced that the hope and goal of our people to accomplish the cause of national reunification in the 1990s will be realized.

Q: the friendly relations between Nepal and the DPRK have been increasing constantly and there has never arisen any problem between our two countries. Your excellency, how do you feel about these encouraging developments and what are your suggestions to further strengthen these ties of friendship and mutual cooperation and understanding?

A: The relations between Korea and Nepal have been developing favourably. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Kingdom of Nepal in May 1974, the peoples of the two countries have been supporting and cooperating with each other in the political, economic, cultural and other fields. Now the relations of friendship and cooperation between Korea and Nepal are becoming still better with every passing day, thanks to the joint efforts of their governments and peoples.

Both Korea and Nepal are independent countries that value the ideals of non-alignment, peace and friendship. The relations between our countries are those of genuine friendship and cooperation on equal terms, based on mutual understanding and confidence.

There are good prospects for our two countries to develop these relations continuously and favourably in the future.

Korea and Nepal are situated in Asia. Today's Asia is entering a new stage of development, attracting the attention of the international community. The Asian people are industrious, talented and strong in the spirit of independence. Judging from its natural and geographical conditions, Asia has great potential for rapid progress. The Asian people must oppose imperialist aggression and intervention, rid themselves of the backwardness and poverty that have been handed down from the past, and build an independent, peaceful and prosperous new Asia. To this end, the countries of Asia must further develop solidarity and cooperation.

For Korea and Nepal to expand and develop their relations of friendship and cooperation will not only help the two peoples to build a new society but also contribute to strengthening solidarity among the Asian people and cooperation among the Asian nations.

It is the consistent foreign policy of the government of our republic to unite with all countries that champion independence and to further the relations of friendship and cooperation with the countries of Asia in particular. The government and people of the DPRK will continue to make every effort to develop the many-sided relations of friendship and cooperation with the Nepalese people under the banner of independence, peace and friendship.

I would like to take this opportunity to send warm greetings to the friendly Nepalese people and wish them renewed success in their efforts to safeguard the independence of their country and the unity of the nation and to build a new society which is democratic and nonaligned.

South Urged To Shift Stand on Nonaggression

SK1112070690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "The South Should Take a Correct Stand on Dialogue"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the third North-South High-Level Talks are scheduled to be held in Seoul from 11 through 14 December.

All the people in the North and South hope that the North-South High-Level Talks will bear great fruit. To make the North-South high-level talks successful, it is imperative to have a correct stand and attitude toward dialogue before anything else.

As is known, at the third contact between the working delegates for the third round of the North-South High-Level Talks, our side suggested that if it is impossible for the two sides to agree on the simultaneous adoption of a North-South High-Level Talks joint statement, a North-South declaration of nonaggression, and a declaration on cooperation and exchange between the North and South—proposals advanced by our side at the first contact of the working delegates—the two sides should decide on the North-South nonaggression declaration and a declaration on North-South cooperation and exchange from among the above possibilities as documents to be adopted at the third round of the high-level talks.

This proposal of our side not only reflects the noble desire of the entire fellow countrymen for reunification, but it has also sufficiently taken into consideration even the proposals so far advanced by the South side. The South side, however, has insisted on adopting only a basic agreement on improving relations between the North and the South.

The basic agreement on improving relations between the North and the South, which the South side has insisted on adopting, is a splittist and antireunification copy of the treaty of basic relations that legalized the two states of East Germany and West Germany in the early seventies.

The South side's insistence on adopting only the basic agreement on improving North-South relations cannot be construed, ultimately, other than as a scheme to delay the adoption of the North-South nonaggression declaration and to legalize the division of the country.

People remember the fact that traitor No Tae-u proposed the adoption of a North-South nonaggression declaration at the UN forum and that he repeated it in a speech delivered to mark the anniversary of national liberation on 15 August.

Also, at the first round of the North-South High-Level Talks, the South side made clear its stand on the need to adopt a nonaggression declaration and at the second round of the North-South High-Level Talks the South side said that it would think about the North side's proposal on the nonaggression declaration in a forward-looking light and affirmatively approach it at the next round.

The South side, however, balked at the idea of adopting the nonaggression declaration and reversed its earlier words, just when the third round of the North-South High-Level Talks, at which the two sides are expected to discuss the adoption of the North-South nonaggression declaration, are only days away. This is a faith-breaching act that brings into doubt the successful conclusion the third round of the North-South High-Level Talks.

A glance at the draft of our side's nonaggression declaration shows that the South has no reason or excuse whatsoever to refuse it. The central idea of our side's nonaggression declaration is ruling out the use of force against the opponent; peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and negotiation; finalization of the nonaggression demarcation line between the North and South based on the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] as stipulated in the Military Armistice Agreement; turning the Demilitarized Zone along the MDL into a peace zone; discontinuation of the arms race; phased reduction of armed forces; and the cessation of large military exercises.

Our proposal has not mentioned the issue of withdrawing U.S. troops occupying South Korea and nuclear weapons, an issue that the South side says it is difficult to accept, and instead even reflects the proposals advanced by the South side. So, it is fair and just, and acceptable to everyone.

In spite of this, the South side refuses to accept it, arguing that it is impossible in terms of time, and added that such conditions as confidence-building take precedence over the adoption of the nonaggression declaration. This is nothing but sophistry designed to refuse to accept our proposal.

How can anyone build confidence without adopting a nonaggression declaration promising not to invade the opposing side by force? The source of misunderstanding and mistrust between the North and South lies in the threat of invasion which it is claimed comes from elsewhere.

Without removing the root cause of misunderstanding and mistrust, confidence-building is inconceivable. It is, therefore, meaningless to talk about improving relations between the North and the South, confidence building, national peace, or reunification, without adopting the nonaggression declaration.

If the South side genuinely hopes for peace and national reunification, it cannot take a negative stand by adding unfair conditions to our proposal.

The South side should be sincere concerning talks with a correct stand and attitude toward dialogue in order to hasten peace and the peaceful reunification of the country according to the progress made in talks.

South Defense Minister's Remarks Assailed

SK1112041090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "The Unchanging Ambition for Northward Invasion"]

[Text] According to news reports, last 7 December South Korean puppet military caudillos held a so-called year-end meeting of the major commanding generals.

At this cabal, which was arranged for the purpose of analyzing this year and of discussing the tenor of next year's defense policy, the person holding the office of the puppet defense minister preposterously provoked by babbling that we have not abandoned the attack-oriented strategic line of communizing the South.

This charge, which is nothing but another name for the threat of southward invasion the South side has been clamoring about, cannot be construed other than as a genuinely brazen-faced utterance.

As is widely known, we have stated on many occasions that we have no intention of invading the South at all. Our peace-loving stand is guaranteed by the numerous proposals for peaceful reunification, both in name and in reality. This is also clearly proven by the fact that in recent years we have effected a unilateral troop reduction of 100,000 and sent about 150,000 troops to peaceful construction sites after detaching them from the frontline and guard posts.

This year alone, we have newly advanced the five principles for national reunification and have exerted every sincere effort possible for their realization. Thanks to our efforts as such, the high-level talks for peace and peaceful reunification are now under way between the North and the South.

Quite the contrary, South Korea continues its maneuvers for a war of northward invasion. This year alone, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets have not only introduced a large number of weapons of mass destruction, but have also continued war exercises throughout the year, including "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, "Eagle 90," and "Pangpae 90," thereby straining the tension.

It is well known that nearly 50,000 U.S. troops and nearly 1 million of the puppet army troops are at constant combat-readiness, backed by 1,000 nuclear weapons, in South Korea. Just when the world is moving in the direction of detente and arms control, one thing remains unchanged—the danger of a new war from South Korea that is on the move from the South to the North.

In spite of such a reality, the puppets noisily babble about our strategy of communizing the South and being offensively-oriented. This is the brigandish logic of a thief calling others thieves.

It is clear why the puppets utter such falsehood. What they seek behind such false accusations is to place blame on us for the tense situation on the Korean peninsula and to accelerate the preparations for a war of northward invasion under the pretext of a nonexistent threat of southward invasion even further.

This heinous intention is fully expressed in the remarks of the puppet Defense Minister, who said in the war conspiracy meeting that next year the puppet should seek to strengthen its independent defense capability and be fully prepared for coping with the changing security environment.

It is no secret that the puppet clique will introduce, as it has done during this year, a large quantity of war equipment, such as attack helicopters, artillery shells, antitank weapons, P3C antisubmarine patrol planes from Western countries, including the United States. At the same time, the No Tae-u ring is now bent on modernizing the puppet armed forces by further accelerating the production of munitions under the pretext of an independent defense. As a first step toward this end, the clique has decided to organize a headquarters for military supplies.

The fact that the South talks about confidence-building or detente in the North-South High-Level Talks, while accelerating the preparations for a new war, clearly indicates that the puppets are bent on realizing their ambition for northward invasion at any cost, while sharpening their swords behind the curtain of dialogue.

The puppets' maneuvers for a war of northward invasion only expose to full view their bellicose nature.

The puppets' criminal maneuvers that run counter to the trends of the times just when all the fellow countrymen are vigorously marching toward their goal of realizing national reunification before the decade of the nineties is out can never be condoned.

The No Tae-u ring should not run riot randomly.

Daily Urges 'Removal' of 'Military Confrontation'

SK1112152690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 11 Dec 90

["Removal of Political and Military Confrontation Is Important Matter Awaiting Solution"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a by-lined article titled "Removal of Political and Military Confrontation Is an Important Matter Awaiting Solution," which reads in part:

The removal of the political and military confrontation between the North and the South stands out as an important matter today awaiting a prompt solution in the North-South relations because it is the root cause of misunderstanding and distrust between the North and the South, an internal factor that obstructs national unity and the solution of the reunification question.

The deep-rooted gross misunderstanding and distrust between the sides have partly been fomented by the past unsavory North-South relations and in the protracted state of severance, but they are mainly attributable to the political and military confrontation that has continued historically. If there were no consciousness of one side being threatened with conquest, politically or militarily, and actually there were no acute hostile confrontation, such deep-rooted distrust would not have been accumulated between the North and the South.

This is all the more clear in view of the reality of the North-South relations which is characterized by the acute political and military confrontation.

To remove the political and military confrontation between the North and the South is an important requisite to the creation of a peaceful precondition for national reunification.

A peaceful solution of the reunification question is inconceivable under the present condition of acute political and military confrontation and tension.

It poses a constant threat to peace that the North and the South have deployed huge armed forces along the military demarcation line and stand in acute confrontation with each other. The fact that the provocative war manoeuvres do not cease in South Korea against the northern half of the country increases this threat.

The reality tells that under the conditions where the North and the South level their guns at each other and a grave situation in which a war may break out any moment prevails, the silence of peace which is maintained unstably may be broken easily by an accidental incident.

A peaceful climate for the solution of the reunification question can be created only when the danger of military invasion and war against the other is removed, and it can be guaranteed only by disarmament and a halt to aggressive military actions.

It is a requirement for the smooth progress of the dialogue, exchange and cooperation between the North and the South to remove the political and military confrontation between the sides.

It is impossible to have contacts, dialogue, exchange and cooperation between the North and the South while the political and military confrontation and tension are aggravating and the danger of war is hanging over. Even though it is possible, the sides can not hope for a faithful dialogue, a fruitful dialogue, and good results cannot be expected of exchange and cooperation.

One of the important matters whose solution is urgently required to remove the political and military confrontation between them and the danger of war, guarantee peace and accelerate a peaceful reunification of the country is to adopt a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South. If the declaration is adopted, each other's security would be ensured reliably, peace be guaranteed and a favourable phase for the independent and peaceful national reunification be created.

If the South Korean authorities truly want peace in Korea, national unity and the reunification of the country, they must sincerely accept our just and realistic proposals aimed at removing the political and military confrontation between the North and the South and pay primary attention to the solution of this matter.

North Musicians Give Second Performance in Seoul

SK1112053390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul December 10 (KCNA correspondent)—The second joint performance of the "traditional concert for reunification seeing 1990 out" was given at the 1,500-seat "National Theatre" in Seoul on the evening of December 10.

Present to see the performance on the South side were the "minister of culture" and other figures of political, public and religious circles.

Yim Su-kyong's father Yim Pan-ho was among the audience.

The performance was seen also by head of the Pyongyang national musical troupe Song Tong-chun, vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Musicians Union, and his party.

The Pyongyang national musical troupe performed first.

The program including the female folk song solo "Yangsando", the female folk song trio "Singosan Taryong" and the Ongnyugum solo "Toraji" was acclaimed by the audience.

When female alto Song Yong-hui sang the song "Road to Reunification", the audience applauded and encored her. She sang another song "Reunification, reunification", moving many people to tears.

The South side's traditional musical group performed next.

It put on the stage "Sannyombul", "Monggumpo Taryong", "Orang Taryong" and other songs.

The artistes of the North and the South decorated the last scene of the performance with a chorus of the folk song "Arirang".

The audience joined in singing the song of reunification at the top of their voices, making the theatre overflow with the fervor of reunification.

Through the two joint performances on December 9 and 10, the people of the North and the South keenly felt once again that they are the same fellow countrymen and one nation and the national music, too, is one and the homogeneity of the nation remains unchanged and they have never become heterogeneous, and demonstrated to the whole world their unanimous mind and will to pull down the barrier of division at any cost and accelerate the day of national reunification.

Normalization Talks With Japan Set for 15 Dec

SK1112050990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—The 3rd preliminary talks for the normalisation of relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan will be held in Beijing on December 15.

The talks will continue to discuss matters arising in the preparation for the full-dress inter-governmental talks of Korea and Japan.

Japanese People Want Normal Ties

SK1112051390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—Japanese people of all walks of life are pressing for early normalisation of Japan-DPRK relations.

The 76th provisional meeting of the Hokkaido headquarters of the Japan Socialist Party [JSP] adopted a resolution for early normalisation of Japan-DPRK relations.

The resolution says that the joint declaration of the Japan Socialist Party, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Workers' Party of Korea is a historical declaration with a noble purpose of contributing to normalising the relations between Japan and the DPRK and establishing diplomatic relations between them on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship, to the peaceful reunification of Korea and to developing friendly relations.

The JSP is exerting influence upon the government to actively respond to the promotion of the improvement of Japan-DPRK relations, the resolution notes. It calls upon the autonomies and democratic organisations in the prefecture to support the joint declaration and make positive efforts to realise it.

The Japan-Korea Cultural Interchange Association in a letter of request to the government strongly demanded that the Japanese Government clean the slate with the DPRK and normalise Japan-DPRK relations at an early date in the spirit and on the principle of the joint declaration and at the same time promote cultural and economic exchanges with the DPRK and guarantee the national rights of the Korean residents in Japan.

A letter of request demanding the realisation of the joint declaration of the three parties was adopted at a meeting of women in Saitama, Japan, to hear a report on a visit to Korea.

KCNA Reviews 11 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK1112060290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Pyongyang December 11 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries the full text of answers given by the great leader President Kim Il-song to questions raised by the president of the Nepal Journalists Association on November 29, 1990.

Appearing in the daily is a letter to Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was adopted at the second symposium of the parties of developing countries on the experience of party building which was held in Tanzania.

Given in the press is an account of seminars on immortal classical works of President Kim Il-song held in different countries.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il received gifts from the deputy secretary general of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania.

Edited in the daily are repercussions on officials of the reply letter of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to the members of the second party cell of the department no. 5 of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY.

It is reported in the press that the North side's delegation led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK, left here to participate in the third round of the North-South High-Level Talks.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article titled "Active Assistance to Light Industry Is an Important Task Facing All Domains of National Economy".

The paper informs the readers that leaders of political parties of Chile respectively met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Given in the paper is an account of a meeting held to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Higher Education Books Publishing House.

The press gives an account of the second joint performance of the Pyongyang national musical troupe and the South side's traditional musical group. Voices of South Korean people and special write-ups of South Korean newspapers on the performance of the Pyongyang national musical troupe are carried in the press.

Workers of the Sinuiju Chemical Fibre Complex rescued Chinese fishermen from a shipwreck, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN reports that world public circles bitterly denounced the divisive "unilateral U.N. membership" scheme of the South Korean authorities.

South Korean news columns of the press include reports that the moviemen's association of South Korea issued a statement in protest against the direct distribution of American films and that students asserted that films of the North make a contribution to the popularization of the movement for reunification.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary condemns powder-reeking words and deeds of the South Korean "defence minister".

Carried in the press is a telephone message sent by the head of the North side's delegation to the North-South sports talks to the chief delegate of the South side regarding the date of the second talks.

In an article NODONG SINMUN says the removal of the political and military confrontation is an important matter awaiting a solution in the North-South relations.

A book "Truth of Korea" was brought out in Peru, says the press.

Papers report about brisk activities of Japanese people for an early establishment of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

NODONG SINMUN introduces achievements of Cuba in the economy.

The paper comes out with an article exposing the intensified moves of the U.S. imperialist aggressors against the northern half of Korea behind the curtain of "peace".

Nationwide Soil Plowing Program Stressed

SK1112114290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0007 GMT 5 Dec 90

[NODONG SINMUN 5 December editorial: "Let Us vigorously Wage the Struggle to Plow Fields as an All-Mass Movement"]

[Text] At present the entire nation has risen vigorously in the struggle to plow fields.

Putting forward recently the task for vigorously waging the struggle to plow fields as an all-mass movement, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song clearly expounded specific methods for putting this task into practice.

That the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward the militant task for waging the struggle to plow fields as an all-mass movement is a wise and just policy enabling one to effect an epochal turning point in agricultural production based on scientific analysis of natural and geographical conditions and agricultural situation in our country and to upgrade the people's living standard onto a higher stage.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We can drastically increase the grain production if we actively improve the lands by plowing them.

From ancient times, farming has been called the primal base of the universe. Only when farming is excellently carried out, can one smoothly solve the people's food problem by producing a large quantity of various agricultural products including grains and epochally enhance the people's living standard.

Putting forward the agriculture-first policy in an effort to increase agricultural production in the past, our party consistently paid attention to this policy. As the result, great successes have been registered in the rural economy sector.

An important way to increase agricultural production at present is to increase the fertility of soil by plowing fields. Plowing fields is an important guarantee for making soil fertile and doing excellent farm work.

The size of cultivated lands in our country is limited and fertility of soil is not high because farming has been carried out for a long time.

In order to increase the grain production, the fertility of soil must be decisively raised. In doing this, plowing soil is an important method. If we plow fields on a large-scale, we can make barren soil fertile and increase production even from small areas.

It is a practical demand for developing our country's agriculture to decisively increase agricultural production by plowing soil and raising the fertility of soil.

Irrigation and electrification of rural economy have been completed a long time ago in our country under the wise leadership of the party and the leader. With pushing for comprehensive mechanization and chemicalization of rural economy, a firm material and technological foundation for increasing agricultural production has been realized.

In recent years, in particular, the 2,000-ri long waterway construction project has been successfully carried out and irrigation work for farm-fields was realized at a high level. This is a great success won in implementing the rural thesis.

Our country is a nation where rural irrigation projects have been carried out excellently. To raise grain yield under the condition where firm agricultural production basis, which does not waver even by severe drought and great flood, has been provided, we should increase the fertility of soil.

It is our party's goal to drastically increase per-chong [99 units of land] grain production across the country by decisively raising the fertility of cultivated lands in future one or two years.

If we plow soil under conditions where material and technological foundation for farming has been provided, we can certainly accomplish this goal and have a rich harvest each year. It is our party's consistent policy to further enhance the people's living standard through excellent farming.

Expounding a lofty plan at an early date to enable our people, who were emancipated from exploitation and oppression, to enjoy plenty of delicious food, wear good clothes, and happily live in a nice house, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song wisely led the struggle to implement it.

Today when such a plan and intention by the party and the leader are being brilliantly achieved, we should more firmly grasp and carry out the agriculture-first policy. By doing so, we can satisfy the people's desire by thoroughly implementing the intentions of the party and the leader and can expedite the complete victory of socialism by brilliantly achieving the rural thesis.

We are faced with a grave and enormous task to plow the cultivable lands throughout the country without fail. However, we certainly have all the conditions and potential to accomplish this task.

The struggle to plow soil is a work which should be carried out without fail in our country. We have the wise leadership of the party and the leader, firm material and technological foundation, and rich experiences in conducting the great nature-remaking work.

We have successfully carried out the difficult and gigantic 2,000-ri waterway irrigation project. No matter how gigantic and difficult tasks facing us today may be, these tasks can be excellently accomplished if all functionaries and workers carry out the struggle to plow soil in a responsible manner by upholding the intentions of the party and the leader.

It is important, above all, for all party members and workers to support the struggle to plow soil with lofty revolutionary zeal by upholding the slogan, "We carry out if the party decides it."

Ideology decides everything. Success can be won in any work only when this work is inspired ideologically.

Included in the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teaching on waging the struggle to plow soil as an all-mass movement is the boundless love and benevolence extended to the people by the leader who exerts his energy without sleep and thinks deeply for our people's happy life by dedicating everything.

Everyone of our functionaries, party members and workers should voluntarily support the struggle to plow soil by upholding the lofty intentions of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song who is always leading our revolution to victory and striving to provide our people with a happier life.

Party organizations at all levels and functionaries should deeply explain and instill the intentions of the party and the leader for vigorously waging the struggle to plow soil, as well as the significance of this struggle, to party members and workers.

By doing so, they should see to it that all people effect brilliant labor exploits in the struggle to plow soil with awareness of being the masters and a lofty revolutionary zeal.

We should carry out excellent soil plowing, qualitatively in compliance with the demand of science and technology. To do this, we should plow soil based on elements of soil and history of the land in each area.

We should lay out young earth, mud soil from river bed, and fresh land from the foot of the mountain, which is mixed with humus, according to soil conditions. At the same time, all the soil should be plowed, excluding not even a handful of land.

The target of land which should be plowed with concentrated strength is the corn field. To promptly plow the corn field before the farming season next year from now, we should examine and understand the real situation of all cultivated lands and establish the organizational work to fully mobilize a broad range of masses and material and technological means.

Giving priority to survey work, functionaries should correctly select the objects of work and decide the order of priority. Thus, they should see to it that the combat is carried out thoroughly and carefully.

We should work by giving full play to the revolutionary spirit for self-reliance with the attitude of bearing responsibility for the assigned tasks.

The soil plowing combat is not work merely related to the rural economy sector but work which should be carried out as an all-people movement. The work of plowing all cultivable lands across the country can be successfully carried out only when all organizations, all enterprises, and all people throughout the country support and push ahead with this work as an all-people movement.

All cooperative farms should carry out the labor organizational work in a reasonable manner, just as in the Ponghwa cooperative farm in Kangdong county, and should push ahead with the plowing of corn fields in a lightning manner by mobilizing all transportation means.

All of the working class, workers and office employees of plants and enterprises should be actively mobilized in this glorious combat, and even the participants in the Friday labor should rise in soil plowing combat.

Cherishing lofty consciousness and the sense of responsibility for working for the nation's and prosperity and and development and for enhancing the people's living standard, functionaries and workers, who are mobilized in soil plowing combat, should carry out their work qualitatively even when they plow a shovel-full earth and should increase the efficiency of work of each unit. At the same time, the fertilizer producers should produce more various micro- element fertilizers and supply them to the farms.

In order to vigorously wage the soil plowing combat as an all- mass movement, we should decisively enhance the role of party organizations. Party organizations at all levels should carefully organize the organizational and political work for successfully implementing the soil plowing combat.

In particular, party organizations should keenly realize that the soil plowing combat is an important militant task assigned to them by the party and the leader and should carefully carry out their operation. They should also vigorously carry out the political work for mobilizing the zeal of the masses.

Setting an example by party functionaries has the greater power to influence than several hundred words in indoctrinating and leading the masses.

Responsible functionaries of the party should set examples to others in carrying out difficult works. When the guiding functionaries take the initiative in work with the lofty position and trait to serve the party and the people, the masses will demonstrate their zeal for soil plowing combat. Thus, miracles and innovations will be created.

That all the people rise and vigorously carry out the soil plowing combat is a rewarding work to more brilliantly bloom the people's happy life by effecting a rich harvest and to further consolidate our socialist rural economy system.

Upholding the lofty intentions of the party and the leader, let us all rise as one in the soil plowing combat and create heroic exploits.

NODONG SINMUN on Man's Centrality in Party

*SK0812112290 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0959 GMT 8 Dec 90*

["Work With Man Is Main Link in the Chain of Work for Strengthening Party and Thoroughly Realizing Leadership"—KCNA Headline]

Pyongyang December 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a by-lined article entitled "Work with Man Is Main Link in the Chain of Work for Strengthening the Party and Thoroughly Realizing its Leadership". The truth and vitality of the principle of party building that the party leadership should be strengthened with work with people as the main, set forth by our party, have been proved in practice the article says.

It quotes dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"On the basis of the Chuche idea which considers man the central factor in everything, our party put forward the new principle for the first time in the history of the building of the working-class parties that work with people is basic to party activities and has unceasingly strengthened the party's leadership."

The article reads in part:

To realize political leadership over the whole society with work with people as the main is a unique principle put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song for the first time in the history of the building of the working class parties.

Our party has constantly strengthened its leadership from the outset, regarding work with people as basic to party work.

From the first days of his revolutionary struggle, the great leader pushed ahead with the preparations for the foundation of a party from the stand that one should go among the masse and build the party by one's own efforts in reliance on them and in conformity with the realities of one's own country and make the revolution.

The wiseness of the guidance of our party which has built itself and led the revolution through work with people ties in that since its founding it, as the ruling party, has intensified work with people in conformity with the revolutionary tasks and the demand of the situation, consistently putting main stress on it.

Our party made sure that party work has been thoroughly turned to work with people, over coming the tendencies of administrative and business-like party work that might appear in the ruling party. And established a proper system of work with people throughout the party.

Whenever grim ordeals confronted it and the revolution in the past period our party tided over difficulties and turned a misfortune into blessing by further strengthening work with people and firmly uniting with the masses.

Our party has successfully carried out the vast tasks of the revolution and construction by ideologically mobilizing the people and enhancing their creative role.

Noting that the Workers' Party of Korea is exalting its honor as a great revolutionary party of Chuche which is strengthening its leadership with main stress put on work with people, the article continues:

The greatness of our party which strengthens its leadership, putting main stress on work with people lies, first of all, in that it fulfills its duty as the mother party which is responsible for the destiny of the popular masses.

The essential characteristic of our party as mother party which bears responsibility for the destiny of the popular masses is absolute trust in and boundless love of the people.

Our party sincerely trusts and loves the popular masses, the most valuable and powerful beings in the world, and puts them in the centre of all activities and enables them to give full play to their creativity. Along with this, our party holds itself entirely responsible for the people's socio-political life and their material and cultural life and takes care of them. In particular, it is a clear expression of love and trust of the mother party that our party gives our people political integrity, the most valuable to social beings, and takes care of and leads them with the mind of a mother toward her children's life.

The greatness of our party in strengthening its leadership, grasping work with man as the core, also lies in that our party is thoroughly embodying the party's method, political method in its activities.

A revolutionary work method, the party's method, political method the keynote of which is the organizational and political work with man is dominant within our party.

In our country all the officials, regarding political work as the first process of all work, perseveringly persuade and effectively educate the masses till they sincerely accept the party's intention as their own and are out for it voluntarily. They always find themselves among the masses as required by the slogan "let the whole party go among the masses!.." And, sharing weal and woe with them, educate and mobilize them or learn from them.

The greatness of our party which strengthens its leadership with main emphasis placed on work with man is fully demonstrated in the firm establishment of a revolutionary party work system.

A well-refined system of work with cadres, party members and other masses and a system under which the whole party conducts work with man have been firmly established within our party. In addition to this, the party leadership system has been established whereby to give guidance over the revolution and construction with work with man as the main.

The practical experience of our party shows that when a party constantly strengthens its leadership with work with man as the main, it can firmly build up itself and the revolutionary ranks organizationally and ideologically, immensely strengthen the driving force of the revolution and push forward the revolution and construction along the road of victory.

Power Generator Installed at Haeju Cement Plant

SK1012042490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Assembling of another thermal power generator and building of a calcinator at Haeju Cement Factory have been completed.

The production processes of this thermal power generator and calcinator, which were built magnificently in a short period of time with our own strength and technology, our own equipment and materials, are highly modernized. [passage omitted]

A ceremony of putting into operation the newly assembled thermal power generator and the newly built calcinator was held on 7 December on the spot.

Functionaries from the sectors concerned, including Comrade Kim Yun-hyok, vice premier of the State Administration Council; Chu Yong-hun, chairman of the Construction and Building Material Industry Committee; Paek Pom-su, responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee; Kim Chang-sik, chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee; and Kim Song-ha, chairman of the District Planning Committee of the South Hwanghae Province, attended the ceremony, along with the employees of this plant, construction workers, and supporters. [passage omitted]

South Korea

Kang Hopes Talks Create Basis for Reconciliation

SK1112125090 Seoul YONHAP in English 1221 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun said Tuesday he hoped the third inter-Korean prime ministers talks will create a basis for reconciliation and mutual confidence between the South and the North so that it may contribute to the future discussions for the Korean unification.

"A basic frame for the inter-Korean reconciliation should be prepared. This is what history obliges us to do," Kang said in a dinner he hosted for the North Korean delegates, including Premier Yon Hyong-muk.

A group of 90 North Koreans, including seven delegates, 33 supporting officials and 50 journalists, arrived in Seoul earlier Tuesday for the third round of inter-Korean prime ministers talks on Wednesday and Thursday.

"We should now overcome the era of futile discord, antagonism and competition which will eventually vanish into the huge wave of history," he said. In reply, North Korean Premier Yon repeated his call for the adoption of a non-aggression declaration by the two sides. Yon said North Korea has presented practical proposals for the designation of the Korean peninsula a "nuclear-free zone" and for the peace on the peninsula.

Claiming that North Korea unilaterally curtailed 100,000 troops and transferred another 150,000 troops to civilian construction sites a few years ago, Yon said, "Such unilateral measures cannot guarantee peace. An adoption of non-aggression declaration and gradual arms reduction would truly guarantee peace."

Before the dinner, the North Koreans attended a special performance of Korean traditional music and dance by a group of South Korean artists at the Seoul Arts Center. The prime ministers of the two sides were warmly welcomed by heartfelt applause from some 2,000 spectators when they entered the hall. At the end of the concert, delegates from South and North Korea joined the performers and audience in a grand harmony, singing the song "Our Wish Is Unification."

Meanwhile, South Korean spokesman for the prime ministers' talks said South Korea will maintain forward-looking attitude in the talks. Yim Tong-won, the spokesman, told reporters South Korea could present a new proposal in addition to its basic position (of adopting an agreement on the improvement of South-North relations).

North Korean spokesman An Pyong-su also hinted in his arrival statement that the northern delegation would offer new proposals. "We will try our best to answer people's expectations by aiming for an agreement on peace and reunification," An said in the statement.

Previous talks failed to produce substantial agreement due to sharp differences in the positions of the two sides. The South maintained that improvement of relations should be discussed most preferentially while the North stuck to its demand for the signing of a non-aggression agreement first. The first prime ministers' talks between South and North Korea were held in Seoul in September. The second was held in Pyongyang in October.

The first-day negotiations will be open to reporters. The second session is slated for Thursday. Yon and his delegates will attend a joint performance by South and North Korean musicians Wednesday. They will return to Pyongyang through the truce village on Friday.

North Delegation Stresses Need for Agreement

SK1112060490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0546 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk crossed the heavily fortified border with South Korea on Tuesday for two days of discussions in Seoul on easing tensions on the Korean peninsula.

Yon, heading a 90-member group of seven delegates, 33 officials and 50 reporters, was greeted in the truce village of Panmunjom by Unification Minister Hong Song-chol at 10:40 A.M. and together they drove to the Hotel Shilla, where the North Koreans will stay and where the talks with Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun will be held.

"We returned home without any accomplishment after the first inter-Korean premiers' meeting in Seoul, and we do not wish to repeat the exercise this time," delegation spokesman An Pyong-su said in an arrival statement. "The time is past for reunification ideals and movement to be limited to certain people. "Who needs the harsh reality of a law that punishes people for contacting North Koreans even in a third country," An said, referring to the arrest of three South Korean dissidents who met with North Koreans in Berlin without government approval. "We will try our best to answer people's expectations by aiming for an agreement on peace and reunification."

Open negotiations on Wednesday will be followed by a closed session on Thursday. The two sides are to extensively discuss ways of easing military tension between South and North, divided since 1945, and beginning diverse cooperation and exchanges.

The two prime ministers first met in Seoul in September and for a second time in Pyongyang in October. Major differences are expected again as the South will propose adoption of an agreement on improving South-North relations while the North is likely to repeat a demand for signing a non-aggression pact first. Seoul officials said they will try for partial agreement on smaller issues, such as installing a hotline between military authorities of the two sides and making the demilitarized zone into a peace zone. South Korea is also to push for economic cooperation through unofficial contacts.

Yon and his delegates will attend a welcoming dinner hosted by Kang Tuesday evening and attend a joint performance by South and North Korean musicians Wednesday. Yon and his delegation will return to Pyongyang through the truce village on Friday.

Government Proposes Direct Trade With North

SK1112013190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea hopes to set up a joint economic cooperation committee with North Korea to open direct trade, economic officials said Tuesday.

Officials at the Economic Planning Board (EPB) said the third inter-Korean prime ministerial talks this week should be an opportunity to begin cross-border trade and the South will propose forming a cooperation committee headed by deputy prime ministers from the two sides. Direct trade, barter and cross-border rail, road and sea links will all be discussed, the EPB officials said.

Major trade items—steel and zinc from North Korea and cigarette filters and jumpers from South Korea—are shipped through third countries. Seoul will propose that more items be traded, with South Korea adding rice and other farm products, home appliances and other consumer goods and North Korea adding natural resources, while allowing for barter. Seoul will also propose setting up free trade zones for inter-Korean exchange, jointly developing North Korean resources and power plants and allowing cross-border travel for foreigners, they said.

Inter-Korean trade between October 1988 and the same month this year shows 40 million U.S. dollars worth of purchases from North Korea compared to 162,000 dollars in sales, all indirect.

North Korean zinc was the major import among 123 items, totaling 9.22 million dollars. Next were steel at 8.4 million dollars, cement at 3.9 million dollars, anthracite at 2.9 million dollars, potatoes at 3.2 million dollars, electrolytic copper at 2.5 million dollars, fisheries at 2.1 million dollars and material for Chinese medicine at 1.8 million dollars. Exports to North Korea totaled three cases—83,000 dollars of cigarette filters, 69,000 dollars of jumpers and 10,000 dollars of sugar.

Further Coverage of North, South Music Festival

SK1012124690 Seoul YONHAP in English 1228 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—Leaders of South and North Korean musicians participating in a year-end traditional music festival Monday agreed in principle to hold inter-Korean exchanges of traditional music concerts on a regular basis. Prof. Hwang Pyong-ki, director of the Seoul Traditional Music Troupe, said that the joint concerts of the musicians of South and North Korea in Seoul were a sort of prelude to the national reunification and are desired to be made on a regular basis.

Song Tong-chun, head of the 33-member Pyongyang folk music troupe, said he hoped the exchange be made regularly in order that the North and the South can unite in one mind through culture and arts.

The two said, "We have solved virtually all problems with regard to proposed regular exchange of concerts. All that remains to be cleared is the concrete means of fulfilling our accord." They said their plan would be able to make a rapid progress pending the results of the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks. The third prime ministers' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday in Seoul.

They also expressed the hope that exchange in traditional music will spread to Western music, dance and play.

Meanwhile, South and North Korean musicians held their second joint concerts at the National Theater Monday evening. Musicians from Pyongyang performed first and the South Korean musicians followed before an audience of 1,500 people jampacking the performance hall.

The North Koreans arrived in Seoul Saturday and had the first joint concert with South Korean musicians Sunday evening at the Seoul Arts Center.

North Issues First Visa To Taiwan National

SK1112024290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—North Korea has issued its first entry visa to a Taiwanese national, who called it a stepping stone for political contacts between the two nations, sources at the Korea National Tourism Corp. [KNTC] said Tuesday.

The sources said KNTC's Taipei office had told them Chang Shi-liang, a legislator, was the recipient of the visa and quoted Chang as saying, "this is not an indiviual affair, but will serve as a stepping stone for political contacts between the two countries." Taiwan has diplomatic relations with South Korea but not with North Korea, which is a strong ally of China.

Issued by North Korea's Bureau of International Travel in Macao, Chang's visa was signed by a Hong Kong travel agent for the bureau. The visa is valid for 10 days, but only for travel in Pyongyang, Shinuiju and the Tuman River, they said. They said the Taiwanese Foreign Ministry has not officially commented on the visa but did not deny the possibility of a Taiwanese citizen visiting North Korea. A spokesman for the South Korean Embassy in Taipei said South Korea did not object to Taiwan-North Korean contacts, the KNTC sources quoted their office as saying.

Russian Official on Coming No-Gorbachev Summit

SK1012140490 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Interview with Aleksandr Chuchalin, deputy prime minister of the Russian Republic, by KBS correspondent Kim Sang-ki on 8 Dec; place not given—recorded; Kim speaks in Korean and Chuchalin in Russian with Korean subtitles]

[Text] The entire Soviet Union is in great confusion because of reform and conservatism and because of economic struggles. However, even amid this situation, the Soviet people have expressed great interest and expectations for President No Tae-u's visit to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Chuchalin, deputy prime minister of the Russian Republic who is known as a right-hand man of Mr. Yeltsin, the banner bearer of reform, today met with KBS correspondent Kim Sang-ki.

[Kim Sang-ki] In a few days, our country's president will visit the Soviet Union. How do you evaluate the significance of the ROK-USSR summit talks?

[Chuchalin] The atmosphere for ROK-USSR cooperation has already matured. With the establishment of diplomatic relations and the exchanges of delegations between the two countries, their relations have progressed rapidly. The forthcoming summit talks will be a more specific and substantive meeting. The leaders will comprehensively discuss all issues instead of focusing on specific fields.

[Kim] It seems that the ROK-USSR summit talks will influence the Korean peninsula greatly. In particular, how do you analyze their impact on North Korea?

[Chuchalin] The Soviet Union is very interested in the reunification of the Korean peninsula. After Germany, the reunification of the Korean peninsula has become the international focus of concern.

I think that from a certain point of view, the German issue and reunification of North and South Korea are the same.

The Soviet Union supports the reunification of the Korean peninsula. Furthermore, the Soviet Union will support the North-South reunification process so that it can be realized as soon as possible.

USSR May Express Regret Over 'Unhappy Past'

SK1012125790 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 10 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Chang Haeng-hun, chief of European Department correspondents, from Moscow]

[Text] The Soviet Union may make a declaration expressing regret over the "unhappy past" in ROK-USSR relations during the summit talks between President Mikhail Gorbachev and President No Tae-u, said a Soviet source—who is involved in the summit talks preparations—on 9 December.

The source explained that this "expression of regret" over the unhappy past is a little less than the "apology" that the ROK requested of the Soviet side prior to the development of their new relations. Because the Soviet side has agreed to express regret, which it was unwilling to do until the last minute, this is interpreted to be its gesture of appreciation for the economic cooperation granted by the ROK.

Because it has been reported that agreement on the major pending issues of the summit talks—such as the agreement on the prevention of double taxation, the agreement on safeguarding investment, the science and technology agreement, and the credit agreement—has already been reached, the Soviet agreement to express regret means that the summit preparations have now been practically completed.

Joint Economic Committee Formed With USSR

SK1112042990 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 11 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 9 December that the governments of the ROK and the USSR, taking advantage of President No Tae-u's visit to the USSR, plan to form a tentative ROK-USSR Joint Economic Committee to closely cooperate and coordinate such pending economic issues as bilateral trade, joint ventures, the development of natural resources, and economic cooperation at the governmental level. The two countries are expected to activate the committee next year on a regular basis.

The formation of this joint economic committee, which is in the nature of a government-to-government standing economic consultative committee, is expected to be made public at the end of ROK-USSR summit talks between Presidents No and Gorbachev during President No's visit to Moscow, which begins on 13 December, as one of issues agreed upon between the state leaders of the two countries.

A high-ranking government official said: "Korea and the Soviet Union are expected to rapidly expand their substantial economic cooperation because of the complementary nature of their technologies, resources, and industrial structures. The two countries have agreed that they need a permanent government-to-government economic consultative committee to accelerate and effectively promote economic cooperation between the two countries."

The high-ranking government official continued: "In the course of working contacts, the ROK and the USSR have agreed to name ministerial-level or high government officials as heads of the joint committee. However, the possibility of the two countries appointing prime ministers as chairmen of the committee also cannot be ruled out."

Commenting on the correlation between the ROK-USSR joint economic committee and a meeting of ROK-USSR government economic delegations scheduled for next January in Seoul, the official said: "The meeting of ROK-USSR government economic delegations will not continue after the two countries have concluded talks on economic cooperation and all the future economic issues between the two countries will be handled in the joint economic committee."

According to this agreement, the talks between the ROK and Soviet Government delegations, headed by Kim Chong-in, senior economic adviser to President No, and Maslyukov, first vice premier of the Soviet Union, respectively, will not continue after detailed programs for economic cooperation are worked out in its second meeting in Seoul next January. During this meeting, the two countries will discuss the framework of economic cooperation agreed upon at the No-Gorbachev summit talks.

The same government official added: "Experts believe that the trade volume between Korea and the Soviet Union, which reac[illegible] the level of $600 million last year, has already risen to the level of $1 billion this year and is expected to grow as high as $10 billion in the mid-nineties, thanks to such legal devices as an agreement on prevention of double taxation. The primary goal of the joint economic committee is to support civilian business activity based on the market economy system as much as possible and perform the function of effectively coordinating investment and development of natural resources while playing the role of ensuring business activity at the governmental level."

Defense Ministry To Buy U.S. Patrol Aircraft

SK1012114390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1125 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea will purchase eight sea patrol planes from Lockheed Corp. of the United States at a total cost of 841.61 million U.S. dollars, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku said Monday. The Defense Ministry finalized the plan to import the P3C U-DIII planes from Lockheed under President No Tae-u's approval, Yi told reporters. The patrol planes will be deployed to the Korean naval forces by 1995.

The selection means a defeat for Atlantique II (ATL II) planes manufactured by Dassault Aviation of France. Yi said the Ministry selected the U.S. planes because the total price of the P3C's is 32 million dollars less than that offered by Dassault. Lockheed planes also have a merit in that they better suit needs in Korea-U.S. joint naval operation, he explained.

The total price include costs for parts needed for maintenance for two years, those for equipment needed for maintenance and land operation, and expenditures to train pilots and maintenance personnel, he said.

The actual import price of a P3C plane is 84.29 million dollars. Lockheed initially suggested 890 million dollars for a total cost but the amount was reduced by about 50 million dollars in the course of negotiations.

Asked if the U.S. aircraft company discontinued the manufacturing of the P3C planes, the minister said that the U.S. company is currently manufacturing that aircraft for planned supplies to the United States, Canada and Pakistan. The ministry signed a tentative contract with Lockheed on Saturday and plans to conclude a formal contract by the end of this month.

Japan's Kaifu Denies Offering Compensation

SK1112091890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0907 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu denied Tuesday press reports that said Tokyo would compensate South Korea for its suffering since World War II if it compensated North Korea. Asked to comment on a MAINICHI SHIMBUN report that he had communicated his intention to pay the compensation to South Korean President No Tae-u via Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the opposition party Komeito, Kaifu said he merely told No that the issue should be settled sincerely.

"I did not refer to the subject in detail nor did I talk about compensation for the 45 post-war years or interest," Kaifu said. In a hastily organized news conference, Ishida also denied the report, saying Kaifu had not touched upon post-war compensation but only asked him to convey to No his basic stance on relations between Japan and North Korea. In its Tuesday editions, the national daily reported that if Japan compensates North Korea for its suffering since World War II, it will do the same for South Korea. Quoting Komeito sources, the daily said Ishida had conveyed Kaifu's position on the compensation issue to No during a visit to Seoul on Dec. 3-6.

Seoul To Refine 'Friendly Nations' Definition

SK1112022190 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 9 Dec 90 p 2

[Article by reporter Yi Chae-ho: "The Government Tries To Redefine the Concepts of Friendly Nations and Unfriendly Nations"]

[Text] It was learned on 8 December that the government is now trying to work out a more detailed classification of friendly nations and unfriendly ones, and further fine-tune the category of communist countries in keeping with the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and the liberalization trends in East European countries. Until now, the government has had a general rule of classifying the countries that are friendly and unfriendly to us.

A high-ranking government official said: "Although our country has set up diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and some East European countries, we have only established diplomatic relations with them, which is a quite different situation from such countries as the United States and Japan, our traditional friendly nations. Nevertheless, some people erroneously perceive those countries with which we have newly established diplomatic relations to be our friends, and we find it necessary to rectify this misperception."

This official stated: "The category of communist countries, too, must be drastically reduced because the majority of the communist regimes in East Europe have already abandoned one-party dictatorship. So countries such as Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia that have been liberalized should be excluded from the list of traditional communist countries."

Accordingly, the government now plans to drastically revise the classification of friendly and unfriendly nations in the "Special Guidelines on the Duty of Government Officials Serving Abroad" issued in July 1988 and currently in use, so as to classify them into either "friendly nations," "nations with which we have established diplomatic relations," "countries with which we have no diplomatic relations," and "unfriendly nations."

The government also plans to rewrite the vague definition of communist countries in the "Guidelines," which regards all the countries in East Europe as communist countries, to make a clearer definition of the communist countries by describing them as "countries that are under the rule of the communist ideology, communist system, and Communist Party."

The "Special Guidelines on the Duty of Government Officials Serving Abroad," an internal-use book that contains some principles and codes of conduct for our diplomats serving abroad to observe in contacts with their counterparts from North Korean or other communist countries, has a vague definition of friendly nations. However, it classifies unfriendly nations as: North Korea, states and organizations hostile to our country, and communist countries.

Since the "Guidelines" brands all communist countries, including the Soviet Union, China, and East European countries, except North Korea and other hostile states and organizations, as communist countries, it has not been able to keep up with the democratic changes that have taken place in East Europe.

The rapidly developing relations with the Soviet Union since they were set up and President No Tae-u's planned visit to the Soviet Union are the factors that have made it necessessary for the government to revise its classification of friendly and unfriendly countries.

Even though the two countries have normalized their relations, the ROK and the Soviet Union pursue different ideologies and values and take clearly different stands on the Korean peninsula issue. Nevertheless, people tend to view the Soviet Union as a "friendly nation" simply because our country has set up diplomatic relations with it.

One official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs remarked: "Even if the ROK and the USSR may reveal basically different understandings about, for instance, the proposal for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, during President No Tae-u's visit to the Soviet Union which begins on 13 December, the two sides will not find it very strange, because the Soviet Union is a country with which we have established diplomatic relations, not a friendly ally."

Traditional relations and support of our cause in the international arena, including the United Nations, have been the yardstick by which our government has classified countries as friendly allies and unfriendly countries.

However, with support of our cause at the United Nations or in other kinds of international arenas becoming more complicated with each passing day, it can no longer serve as a standard by which to define countries as friendly allies and unfriendly countries.

This year's UN General Assembly [UNGA] session, which closes on 18 December, is a good example. In key note speeches at the UNGA session, a total of 71 countries, including the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, and 12 European Community countries, supported our application for UN membership, whereas only 9 countries—Cuba, China, Laos, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania, Swaziland, Burundi, Guinea, Angola—supported North Korea's stand on the issue. Thirty-eight countries, including Mongolia, Morocco, and Egypt, abstained from voting.

Many of the countries that supported our call for UN membership, such as Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Romania, cannot be classified as friendly allies simply because of their support of our cause.

One high-ranking government official stated: "Of course, we do not find it necessary to openly classify countries as friendly and unfriendly countries and even as countries with which we have established diplomatic relations and let the countries in question know our definition. We also find it unnecessary to view countries as friends and foes at a time when the cold war is disappearing. Instead, we need to be able to view countries based on their relations with our country and choose accordingly.

Cooperation With UR Decisions Urged

SK1112010890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Dec 90 p 6

[From the "New Horizon" column by Kim Pyong-kuk: "Uruguay Round and Korea"]

[Text] On December 7, after four years of bargaining, the UR [Uruguay Round] multilateral negotiation remain deadlocked over the issue of farm subsidies. Even though the delegates decided to continue talks early next year in Geneva, the prospects for the future are by no means bright because it would require changes in the positions of the U.S. and European Community (EC) on agriculture. The U.S. delegation said openly that there would be no point to begin negotiations until the EC showed more flexibility but the EC has shown no sign of changing its bargaining stance.

The UR is the eighth such world trade negotiation since World War II and commenced in September 1986 in the Uruguayan resort town of Punta del Este to find solutions for negotiated settlements in 15 areas, including agriculture, textiles, manufactures goods and services such as banking, transportation, telecommunications and construction in line with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Of the 107 participating countries, the two leading players in the talks are the U.S. and the European Community with the most controversial issue being agricultural subsidies. The position of the US and Cairns Group (14 farms exporters including Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) is that the EC should make a concrete commitment to reduce export subsidies and allow market access.

The U.S. and the Cairns Group demand that the EC cut internal agricultural subsidies by 75 percent over the next decade, and export subsidies by 90 percent. The European Community has shown no signs of making substantial concessions from its position of 30 percent cuts in internal farm support over 10 years counting from the 1986 level (a 17 percent cut had been implemented between 1986 and 1990). France and Germany have been the community's main opponents to further reductions of farm subsidies on the ground that acceptance of the US and Cairns Group demands would force more than 2 million of its 10 million farmers off the land. The U.S. backed by other food exporting countries, has also demanded that Japan lift its ban on rice imports. Japan's position is that it has no intention of opening up its home market to rice imports on the ground that it would compromise its security by importing the major portion of its staple grain.

The failure of the UR negotiations would give fresh impetus to protectionist pressure which would result in a deep economic recession and would determine "the future of the multilateral trading system" as noted by our Trade-Industry Minister Pak Pil-su. The failure would intensify trade tensions and accelerate the trend to split the world into warring trading blocs. The U.S. would speed up its efforts to conclude bilateral trade arrangements with Mexico and other middle American countries along the lines of the U.S.—Canada free trade deal. It was perhaps not coincidence that President Bush visited Mexico in early December. In Asia, Malaysia indicated that it would initiate the setting up of an East Asian Trading bloc if the UR negotiations fail. The U.S. might initiate retaliatory actions against selected countries and those countries might invoke counter-retaliation. Thus, it would bring forth a recurrence of the global trade wars of the 1930s with all their catastrophic consequences of depression and maybe a world war.

The objective of the UR is to strengthen the multilateral trade system and to foster free trade. Some form of a compromise version would emerge in the course of time since the consequence of ultimate failure would be catastrophic to the world. As Korea is the world's 13th trading nation and the Korean economy depends on a high 70 percent on foreign trade, the final failure of the UR would ruin the economy itself though the farm market opening would inflict devastating damages on its agricultural sector.

The US and Cairns Group had been demanding that all kinds of subsidies and import barriers be abolished. Korean agriculture would no longer be dependent on the double price system for rice and barley, the buffer stock system for key farm products and various preferential loans, all of which are classified as subsidies. Sooner or later, the opening of the agricultural sector would engulf Korea. The best thing the country could hope for is a long grace period for the needed structural adjustment of its agricultural sector.

For years, the Uruguay Round negotiations had been depicted by many writers as some "sinister" plot led by a few developed countries to exploit the developing countries including Korea and to ruin their fragile agricultural sectors. The nation's agricultural cooperative federations have been vociferous in raising strong demands that the government reject outright the UR. Some opposition assemblymen joined the chorus for outright repudiation of the UR. But, the choice available to Korea is either to ruin the whole economy itself by rejecting the UR or accept its conclusions and restructure agriculture and other affected sectors to minimize the adverse effects of the market opening.

On this matter, the very survival of our nation is at stake. There is no room for partisan interests to step in and play. During the short period of breathing interval available, the government, National Assembly, and academic circles all should devote themselves to drawing up consensus measures on how to cope with the aftermath of the eventual conclusion of the UR. There is no time to lose.

Possible Union of 5th, 6th Republic Forces Viewed

SK1012131290 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 10 Dec 90 p 3

[Article by reporter Kim Min-pae: "The Secret Operations of the Sixth Republic—'Embracing Fifth Republic Forces' Is in Sight"]

[Text]**With a View to Reunity and Control Within the Ruling Camp**

The Sixth Republic has recently secretly pushed ahead with reuniting with dispersed forces of the Fifth Republic, thus drawing attention. It has been learned that—timed to coincide with "embracing Fifth Republic forces"—the Sixth Republic has pushed forward the project of uniting the pan-ruling camp, including forces of the now defunct Democratic Republican Party. This further draws the attention of the political arena.

The primary objects of the Sixth Republic's ongoing project of reuniting Fifth Republic forces are former President Chon Tu-hwan in the Paektam Temple and his close aides; Chong Ho-yong in the United States and his supporters; and former lawmakers of the 11th and the 12th National Assembly. The Presidential Secretariat, cochairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Pak Tae-chun, and Floor Leader Kim Yun-hwan are playing the role of "channels."

Political analysts view this attempt of the Sixth Republic to reunite with the Fifth Republic as closely connected with the future the political situation which is likely to rapidly change after the National Assembly session closes.

They are of the opinion that this project is, for the time being, aimed at rallying the ruling camp to counter the "political situation of elections," such as the elections of local assemblies, which are to be held in three or four months as the bill on the local autonomy system will be surely passed during the current assembly session, and the general elections and the elections of the chief local administrators in early 1992.

In addition, they interpret this unity project as closely linked to the judgment that completing the remainder of President No Tae-u's term with the forces of the Fifth and the Sixth republics with virtually the same root reunited will be conducive to the stability of the ruling camp. They also view the project as deeply concerned with the future plan to take power again after President No's term.

Communications With Former President Chon Tu-hwan in the Paektam Temple Over a Hot Line

Former President Chon Tu-hwan in the Paektam Temple is the first target which President No's key figures pay the most careful attention to pushing ahead with their project.

They are very heedful of security because of the question involving the Paektam Temple is a very "sensitive" issue. Thus, their moves in this connection have not been conspicuous.

However, it has been learned that since the end of last August, half of President No Tae-u's term, various ways for winning Chon over have been discussed in a formal manner.

A rumor has it that a plan for President No's secret visit to the Paektam Temple was examined at that time, though it was not implemented because "the time was not yet ripe."

Some time around the Korean-Soviet summit talks in June, President No directly communicated with Chon over the hot line installed in the Paektam Temple and explained to him the process of the talks. This is also said to have been connected with the project of reunity.

It is rumored that DLP Floor Leader Kim and former Senior Secretary for Petitions and Information Chong Ku-yong frequently contacted Lawyer Yi Yang-u and Chon's other aides and exchanged in-depth opinions with them.

They are also said to have sounded out the other side with regard to the question of forming an independent political group of the Fifth Republic forces, which had been sporadically talked about in the political arena since 11 former lawmakers of the Democratic Justice Party, including Chong Nam, Kim Chong-nam, Yom Kil-chong, and Choe Yong-tok had attended a congregation on the "second anniversary of the seclusion" of Chon held in the Paektam Temple on 23 November. Furthermore, they are said to have discussed ways for settling this question in a developmental manner.

It is also rumored that at these contacts, core members of the ruling camp cordially requested the Paektam Temple side to render "cooperation" with them, emphasizing the "theory of co-ruin" that "the division of the ruling camp entails the ruin of all."

It is said that for this reason, former Director of the Agency for National Security Planning Chang Se-tong; former Director General of the Presidential Security Service An Hyon-tae; former Minister of National Unification Board Ho Mun-to; Lawyer Yi Yang-u; and Secretary Min Chong-ki; and other key aides to Chon held an emergency meeting on 5-6 December. There is a rumor that at this meeting, they discussed a new "proposal of the Sixth Republic" for consolidating the cooperative system between the Fifth and the Sixth Republic forces. However, what is the proposal about has not yet been known at all. It is expected that this project of reunity with the Paektam Temple will be acceleated through new Senior Secretary for Petitions and Information Kim Yong-il and Floor Leader Kim Yun-hwan.

Indirect Dialogue With Chong Ho-yong After He Went to the United States

Chong ho-yong, who has stayed in San Francisco after he gave up his candidacy for a by-election in the second So-ku constituency, Taegu, last April, and went to the United States, is another object of the operations.

It is said that during his visit to San Francisco for Korean-Soviet summit talks last June, President No directly talked with Chong over the telephone and that since then, he has steadily maintained relations with him, delivering messages to him through those who have visited the United States.

It has been learned that Kwon Ik-hyon, former chairman of the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] who returned home on 9 December from his visits to Latin American countries as President No's special envoy, was given a secret order to contact Chong on his way back home.

Living in San Francisco with his wife and three daughters, with the exception of his eldest daughter who is attending Seoul National University, Chong works as a part-time researcher at the Hoover Institute, Stanford University. The timing of Chong's return home is a matter of concern along with when Chon will leave the Paektam Temple. Chong called Kang Sang-hui, his former assistant, to the United States a month ago and has lived with him. Some view this as prepations for his coming back home.

Chong is said to have told a figure, who recently visited the United States, that "I want to visit Seoul some time at the end of this year, but I have not made up my mind because I am afraid my visit will unnecessarily draw attention." It is expected that when he will return home permanently will be decided early next year.

Reconnecting Former Lawmakers by Saying "Do Not Waver"

DLP Cochairman Pak Tae-chun and Floor Leader Kim Yun-hwan are said to have contacted one former DJP lawmaker after another. They have tried to reconnect former lawmakers by emphatically saying "Never waver, and there will be opportunities in the forthcoming elections."

Cochairman Pak has recently met Choe Myong-hon, Pak Ik-chu, and Yi Yong-il, respectively. Since 20 November, Floor Leader Kim has contacted members of the "Minuhoe," a group of former DJP lawmakers. They have contacted Kim Suk-hyon, chairman of the Minuhoe, Yang Chong-kyu, Ha Sun-pong, Yom Kil-chong, Chong Nam, Kim Chong-nam, Pak Kyong-sok, Pak Kwon-hum, Kang Kyong-sik, Nam Chae-tu, Yu Chun-hyon, Chong Chae-chol, Hyon Kyong-tae, Yu Kun-hwan, Yi Tae-sun, Yi Sang- ik, Wang Sang-un, Yi Pom-chun, and others who intend to resume their political life.

Furthermore, Floor Leader Kim has a plan to contact Chang Song-man, Han Kap-su, Yi Yong-taek, Pae

Myong-kuk, Chon Pyong-u, Yu Hung-su, Yi Yong-ho, and other former lawmakers of the DJP fraternal association.

What draws attention is the inclusion of former figures of the Democratic Republican Party, such as Chon Ye-yong, Kil Chon-sik, Kim Yong-tae, and Yi Man-sop, in the list of the figures he plans to contact.

President No Orders Arrest of Crime Bosses

SK1112063590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0546 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 11 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u has ordered the early arrest of wanted crime bosses who are in hiding, and special efforts to protect the North Korean prime minister and his party during their stay in Seoul. No gave the orders Tuesday during a meeting on public security, he chaired at Chongwadae. Home Affairs Minister An Ung-mo, Justice Minister Yi Chong-nam and Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku were present to discuss the progress in the president's war on crime and efforts to stabilize society. Agency for National Security Planning Director So Tong-kwon, Seoul City Mayor Ko Kon, Prosecutor General Chong Ku-yong and National Police head Yi Chong-kuk were also present.

The president told the defense minister to maintain tighter vigilance on the border with North Korea, coast line, ports and airports on the occasion of the yearend and new year. He also emphasized the need for the people in leadership positions in society as well as public servants to set an example of frugality and discipline.

Burma

General Saw Maung Outlines Goals for Nation

BK1112045690 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1300 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Speech By Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, at a meeting with local people during tour of Letkokkon on 10 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] I will not be speaking too long here. I have only a few words to say on this occasion. We can perhaps say what has happened has happened and what has been done has been done. But everyone knows what the country is facing today. Briefly, it must be said that because there is disunity within our country, elements abroad want to interfere in our affairs. This is a natural phenomenon.

To tell the truth, we are taking charge of the situation today in the name of the Defense Services. Because we, the Defense Services, are in charge, and as long as we and the people of our country understand each other, know each other well, and work sincerely together, any sort of difficulty can be overcome.

To achieve progress, everyone must work. How then should we work? It is imperative to know one's own task. For instance, there are different tasks for, say, service personnel like us, or for the peasants. One must know his own task. What is vital is to know oneself.

As the commander in chief of the Defense Services, my task is to defend the nation. Speaking about defending the nation: How can this be done? For instance, the task of the commander in chief of the Defense Services is to quell anyone who would destroy the country, including insurgents, both in and out of the country. In short, the task of the commander in chief of the Defense Services is to ensure that we do not become enslaved again. [passage omitted]

What are the requirements for peace and stability, say, in a village? There are two requirements. One concerns the law—that is, the written law. I have frequently cited the law, for instance, the Criminal Procedure Code. What does this law contain? It is necessary to understand it. For instance, we can find high treason against the state in that law. There will also be stipulations dealing with how to act against robbery and theft and what the penalty will be if one commits those crimes. There are also stipulations about how a person who abets crimes can be punished legally. In other words, one must understand the law by which he must abide.

People who reside in rural areas do not have time to read such things because they are preoccupied with their livelihood. Knowledge and educational standards have reached a higher level these days because of better communication through things such as radio and television. Hence, people can be informed of things. Today, there are telegraphic links. Because of this, communicating between each other becomes easier. These are things we should do. Regarding things that must be done, there are some we can do and there are also things we cannot do. Some things must not be done by us alone and should be carried out in cooperation with the people.

For this country to develop, there are things we can do with our own expertise, but there also are things we have to do by seeking foreign ideas and so forth.

There are many differences between us and them. Our lives are different from theirs. For instance, what do they need in their countries in winter? They need things to keep them warm. In the summer, they need things to keep them cool. For us, we can stay as we are because nature has made us such. We can stay without air conditioning and there is no snowy, cold winter that makes us sleepless at night. If we take a look at them, we can see that they do not have enough clothing or food. They have to wear thick clothing to withstand the cold. They also have to import food from other countries because they do not have enough.

In our country food is abundant. We have a surplus of our staple food, rice. We also have enough land to produce crops. The weather is also good. Myanmar [Burma] is unique in this world. In turn, we cannot assume that we should have something just because some other nation has it. We must have consideration for each other. In trading, one should only take a fair share of profit. We should not be extreme in wanting unjust profits.

Excessive greed is not in accordance with our social habits, customs, or traditions. For instance, if one goes abroad, he will find it difficult to obtain a [free] meal. You can get that meal only when somebody goes out of the way to invite you. Let me tell you frankly, [words indistinct] persons I have not known before. But if I go to a house near here and ask for a meal because I have not eaten yet, I am certain that I will not be driven away because that is not the custom of our people. Such are our customs, culture, and traditions.

Also, we are different from them in showing respect for the elders. In their country, once a certain person reaches the age of 18, the parents do not treat that person as their own child. In our country, even the great grandchildren and grandchildren stay with their great grandparents and grandparents. These are the differences. Their culture is very recent. For instance, according to history, America is only over 200 years old, while our history shows our culture has been here for tens of thousands of years. Therefore, to tell the truth, we cannot permit our country to be enslaved. Come what may, and whoever it may be, we will not tolerate anyone trying to treat us as if we are inferior. I will not accept any act that will destroy our country. There, I have said it quite bluntly.

Therefore, there is a difference between us and them. Some... [changes thought] while at this point let me say a few relevant words. There is something called a covenant that concerns us. When one becomes a public servant he is bound by a covenant. And there are also customs and traditions, and there are international traditions.

For instance, if we look back at the time when the Revolutionary Council was formed. Who were the members then? General Ne Win was the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Brigadier General Aung Gyi was the vice chief of staff. I believe Brig. Gen. Tin Pe was the quartermaster general. The chief of the Air Force then was Brig. Gen. T. Clift—Tommy Clift. The chief of the Navy was Commodore Than Pe.

Brig. Gen. Tommy Clift was the Air Force vice chief of staff then, but he was also the member of the Revolutionary Council. But, because Brig. Gen. Tommy Clift was married to a lady from Britain, he, out of understanding and acting in accordance with the convenant, asked that he be allowed to resign from the Revolutionary Council. I have a record of this, and perhaps I may have it here with me even now—in other words, Brig. Gen. Tommy Clift's file.

Today, perhaps there may not be any problems here, but there are, in Yangon [Rangoon] and other places, [problems] regarding that young woman [Aung San Suu Kyi, general secretary of the National League for Democracy, married to a Briton]. The same thing applies to that young woman—that is, the covenant. Leaking of state secrets is not permissible in any way. This young woman can never be a leader of the country when viewed from a legal perspective. In the same way, she cannot be the leader in terms of the covenant. This is a tradition observed by every world nation. Well I have quoted Section 10.E [dealing with people who receive or are entitled to receive privileges offered by a foreign government] before. That law was prepared by Gen. Aung San [Aung San Suu Kyi's father] himself. We have also clarified the matter of receiving privileges before, and it can be understood if one reads newspapers.

Knowledge is something we must always seek. While on this point, I would like to say something briefly. I do not want to talk too long because I have already spoken this morning. You can listen to that tonight [on radio].

How are we going to build this nation? I have not said anything until today because I have promised I will not engage in politics. But I will do everything possible about matters that concern the whole nation—for instance, needs of the people regarding food, clothing, and shelter .

Next, I would like to discuss the remarkable aspects of our nation. Rubies are something you only find in our country. No other country produces them. Regarding jade, some countries may produce it, but real jade stones are produced only in our country. These things are unique. There are many other things, also. Our country is not in a situation where we can starve. [passage omitted]

We are assuming responsibility because of unavoidable circumstances. I do not yearn for power. I have said this many times already. What I am doing today is out of necessity and because of unavoidable circumstances. But, I will be doing these duties for the nation to the best of my ability.

There are things written in newspapers. For instance, cartoon strips ask where did Gen. Aung San go. During the time when Gen. Aung San and the Thirty Comrades left [to seek help for the independence movement in Burma], cartoon strips said he left for China. But in reality, he reached Japan. When the group of Thirty Comrades was founded, the aim was to seek help from the 8th Army [preceding two words in English]—I think, it was the PRC's 8th Route Column Army [preceding four words in English]; in other words, it was from the [Chinese] Communist Party. Gen. Aung San had intended to go there. But how did he get to Japan? That was fate. [passage omitted]

During the time we are in charge, there are three key goals. They are: nondisintegration of the union; nondisintegration of the national unity; and perpetuation of sovereignty. Well, these are the three goals that we are working for. How will the country go in the future? That will have to be included in the Constitution. Once that is completed, we—the Defense Services and the public service personnel—may have a different set of goals. [passage omitted]

What is happening in the country today is very bad. It is like a fight between the children and parents of one family, like brothers not recognizing each other and being separated into different groups. This is a very bad situation. On the other hand, perhaps we can say (?it is all over and done with). Or, are there still grudges remaining? Let me put it bluntly: Do not try to harbor grudges against us. I will not tolerate people trying to maintain grudges and saying that they will do such and such once they are in power. I say things simply.

You people do not seem to know anything. [laughs] I do not want to talk too much. Well under a democracy, it is you who should be speaking out. [laughs] (?That is all.)

11.82 Acres of Opium Fields Reportedly Destroyed

BK0112150090 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] In order to hail the antinarcotic activities of the state, which has regarded such activities as a national duty, responsible personnel and villagers from (Pinbon), (Htusha), (Phine), and (Taunglay) villages of Pinlaung township, Shan state, destroyed 11.82 acres of opium fields on 20 September and 2 October in this year's opium cultivation season.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Further Reportage on Visit by PRC's Li Peng

Mahathir Hosts Banquet

BK1112070090 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Malaysia feels that China ought to play an important role in the formation of an economic bloc to countervail those formed by the developed countries of the West. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Malaysia disagrees with the formation of economic blocs. The fact is, however, that many developed countries in the West have formed such blocs and are using their economic strength to obstruct fair and free trade. In such a situation, Malaysia is of the view that the countries of the Asia-Pacific region should strengthen further their economic and market size so that eventually an economic bloc will be formed to countervail the other economic blocs.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said this is vital to the world to achieve a balanced economic development. He was speaking at a dinner he hosted last night in Kuala Lumpur for the visiting Chinese prime minister, Li Peng. Mr. Li Peng arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday on a four-day official visit.

In his speech, Mr. Li Peng said China will unswervingly pursue a policy of reform and opening up, which requires a stable and united domestic and international situation. Referring to Malaysia-China relations, he said bilateral ties in recent years have reached a new height with marked increases in economic cooperation and trade. The Chinese Government and people treasure the friendship [word indistinct] with Malaysia and he was convinced that both countries would endeavor to achieve greater successes in all areas of cooperation.

Li on Non-Interference

BK1112091590 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0806 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 11 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Visiting Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Tuesday said Chinese who have yet to become citizens of Southeast Asian countries in which they reside should respect the laws of the respective countries.

He guaranteed the Malaysian Government that China will not resort to using the local Chinese community to further its own interests.

In an hour-long meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed here, Premier Li also assured that China's current beefing up of its defence forces was strictly for self-defence purposes and posed no threat to neighbouring countries.

Malaysian Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary-General Abdul Majid Mohamed, who briefed reporters later, said Li's statement was a "very clear message" of assurance to countries in the region which had long feared that local Chinese communities would be used by China to undermine national security.

Dr. Mahathir and Li later chaired a two-hour-long delegation meeting at the Prime Minister's office here. Li arrived Monday on a four-day official visit.

Dr. Mahathir said the last remaining obstacle which had prevented closer ties between Malaysia and China had been the Chinese-backed Communist Party of Malaya (CPM). But following the signing of a peace agreement between the Malaysian Government and the CPM last year, there was no reason why bilateral ties could not develop further.

Reflecting this desire for improved bilateral relations, Malaysia had lifted travel restrictions on Malaysian tourists to China, and was now considering expediting visas for Chinese visitors to Malaysia.

Malaysia and Chinese airlines officials would meet next week to discuss the possibility of increasing flights between the two countries.

The two leaders also discussed bilateral and international issues including Dr. Mahathir's proposal for East Asian countries to establish a regional economic grouping to safeguard its interests in view of growing global trade protectionism.

The Chinese leader was "supportive" of the need for East Asian countries to have closer economic cooperation, and agreed that talks were needed to explore the suggestion, Abdul Majid said.

Premier Li said closer cooperation was of importance particularly following the suspended Uruguay Round of multi-lateral trade talks for freer global trade, which he described as a "failure," and increasing regional trade blocs in the West.

He agreed with Dr. Mahathir that Western countries were resorting to issues such as human rights, workers' rights and environmental protection as excuses to hamper the progress of developing nations.

Supports East Asian Market

OW1112102290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0808 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 11 KYODO—Chinese Premier Li Peng is "supportive" of Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's idea of forming an East Asian market to counter protectionism but suggested consultations with other countries in the region first, a Malaysian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"He (Li) was struck by the proposal and agreed that there should be closer cooperation in trade between East Asian countries," said Foreign Ministry Deputy Secretary General Abdul Majid Mohamed.

"China agreed to consultations (on the East Asian market) but initially wants to establish flexible and loose ties. He acknowledged a need for some kind of a mechanism," Majid said in a briefing to reporters after a three-hour meeting between the two prime ministers and their delegations.

Mahathir floated the idea of an East Asian trade bloc last week to counter a likely increase of protectionism in Western countries following the failure of international trade talks in Brussels. Mahathir said the failure of the talks will lead to the formation of regional markets such as the Canada-U.S.-Mexico market and a single European market in 1992.

Li, who is on a four-day goodwill visit to Malaysia, is the first senior foreign official to whom Malaysia has presented the idea.

Mahathir also intends to lay the proposal to Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who is scheduled to visit here next month. Mahathir's proposal envisions Japan and China as leading members, with South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam, Myanmar [Burma], and the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Brunei.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke also conceded last Friday that a regional market is necessary in the face of the trade talks collapse. Mahathir, however, has significantly left Australia and New Zealand out of his East Asian market proposal.

Majid said both prime ministers agreed that developing countries were facing many kinds of protectionism from a Western world jealous of the rapid pace of economic growth in some countries. They both agreed that action needs to be taken in the long run to counter protectionism, Majid said.

Li also assured Mahathir that China has no desire to use its Armed Forces to further its foreign policy objectives, saying that it is modernizing its forces mainly for defense. China has always been considered a possible threat in the defense strategies of Southeast Asian countries. In the upgrading of its forces, China is receiving technology from the United States and is also expanding its Navy.

During the talks, Li also gave a "guarantee" that China will not "resort to using the Overseas Chinese community for its own self-interest in this part of the world," Majid said. Li said Overseas Chinese should respect the laws of their land of residence, according to Majid. This is the first time that China has given such a clear message addressing the worries of many Southeast Asian nations with significant ethnic Chinese populations. More than 30 percent of Malaysia's 16.9 million population, for instance, is ethnic Chinese, the largest percentage in any country aside from Singapore. Relations between many Southeast Asian countries and China were strained for many years because Beijing backed the predominantly ethnic Chinese communist movements in these countries and was accused of attempting to destabilize governments in Southeast Asia.

Indonesia and Singapore only recently normalized relations with China. Malaysia and China also agreed to improve bilateral trade and increase airline flights between the two nations, Majid said. Airline officials of Malaysia and China will meet on December 18 to discuss the expansion of their services in each other's countries.

Mahathir Warns Against Corruption of Press

BK1012093590 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0857 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 10 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Monday [10 December] warned of the danger of the press becoming corrupted if it was given absolute power.

He stressed that the power of the free press was so strong that it could make or break a government by influencing the electorate in a democratic country.

He then posed the questions:

Since the press can wield the power which can make or break governments, is it not possible for it to be corrupted?"

If there is no criticism of press freedom or the press is permitted unlicensed freedom, then would not the press be said to wield absolute power and would not it then be absolutely corrupted?" [quotation marks as received]

Opening the 23d international Chinese newspaper convention here, Dr. Mahathir quoted the saying: "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

If the press does not like the government to have absolute power, then by the same token, the press must not wield absolute power in moulding public opinion, he said.

The prime minister, however, stressed that the press in Malaysia was a free one.

He said: The fact that the press can say that the press is not free means that it is free. If it is not free, then it will only echo what the government says.

Paradoxically, therefore, a press is free when it says it is not free and, it is not free when it says that it is free.

Emphasising the need for the press to be free, Dr. Mahathir said: the pen (press) must be free. Any restriction would be considered undemocratic. The press must be free to criticise governments because that is one very important way to stop governments from the misuse of power.

He said that the Chinese press catered to a very influential minority community in countries in the Southeast Asia region.

In Malaysia, he added, the Chinese had contributed a lot to the economy and, to a certain extent, it resulted from the role of the Chinese press.

He said that Malaysia had practiced racial tolerance and this included the availability of newspapers in languages of different races living here.

Representatives of Chinese newspapers from Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brazil, England, Canada, the United States, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Malaysia are attending the two-day convention.

The convention would focus on training of journalists.

Mahathir on East Asian Trading Bloc Initiative

BK1012063690 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Malaysia will take the initiative to form the proposed East Asian trading bloc. Efforts toward this will start tomorrow when Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed meets his Chinese counterpart Li Peng in Kuala Lumpur.

Answering questions by newsmen in Kuala Lumpur this morning, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said all ASEAN members states, Indochinese states, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan would be invited to join the bloc. Australia and New Zealand will not be included in the bloc. The prime minister said the decision to form the trading bloc was taken due to several reasons. They included the failure of the multilateral world trade talks and the formation of trading blocs in Europe, North America, and South America.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said if Asian countries were not united and each country tried to defend its rights individually, they would not have the strength to counter these trading blocs. He said failure of the Brussels talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, was expected by Malaysia and the government is convinced that developed countries will not help the developing countries.

On the role of Japan on the proposed East Asian trading bloc, the prime minister said many developed countries would apply pressure on that country not to join the pact.

State Chief Minister Views Ties With Singapore

BK0612145790 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Dec 90 p 18

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Malaysia can still forge better relations with Singapore even after Mr. Goh Chok Tong's appointment as the new prime minister to succeed Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Johor menteri besar [chief minister] has said.

The Malay-language tabloid, WATAN, quoted Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as saying that the Johor state government had not faced any problem in establishing commercial links with Singapore, especially in the field of economy.

"Mr. Goh Chok Tong's leadership is an extension of the concept practised by Mr. Lee Kuan Yew who governed Singapore since 1965," he explained when contacted by WATAN while attending the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] youth and wanita [women] assemblies here last week.

He said that the new Singapore prime minister is capable of charting a better future for the republic, especially in defending the history of Singapore's outstanding industrial development once orchestrated by Mr. Lee Kuan Yew.

"Singapore's transfer of power was expected. However, we have made early preparations by forging an understanding with the new prime minister," he explained when commenting on the possibility that Malaysia-Singapore relations will drift apart with the appointment of the new prime minister.

He added that the first stage of Johor-Singapore relations during Mr. Lee's era was a leader-to-leader relationship while the second stage would be between the peoples of Malaysia and Singapore. "The brotherly link between the two countries is vital," he said.

The menteri besar also paid tribute to Mr. Lee, now senior minister, for providing political cooperation and understanding when Singapore was under his leadership.

Sabah Chief on Confrontation With Kuala Lumpur

BK0712133390 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Kota Kinabalu, Wed. [Wednesday, 5 December]—Parti Bersatu Sabah will consider a proposal for party leaders to seek an amicable solution to end the political confrontation with the Barisan Nasional [National Front] Government, its president Datuk Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan said today.

He said discussions to that effect would be possible but the party needed time before meeting Barisan leaders.

"We (PBS members of Parliament) were in Kuala Lumpur for two days and we have cordial relations with Barisan leaders," he told a Press conference on his arrival here last night.

The Chief Minister and 13 other PBS leaders were in the Federal capital to be sworn-in as Members of Parliament and attend the opening of the eighth Parliament sitting by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong [paramount ruler] yesterday.

The Chief Minister said the proposal by the PBS Secretry-General Datuk Joseph Kurup to call for a truce between the State ruling party and the Barisan Nasional Government merited consideration.

Datuk Kurup had suggested that PBS leaders, especially Datuk Sri Pairin should meet Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed to seek an amicable solution to the strained relationship between the State and Central Government.

Datuk Sri Pairin said he still maintained relations with Federal Ministers and other Barisan leaders and they are welcome to visit Sabah.

"Sabah is part of Malaysia and if they do not wish to come here, that means they want nothing to do with the State," he said and called on opposition parties in Sabah to consider the welfare of the people instead of gearing to topple the democratically elected PBS Government.

He said the State election was not due for another five years and as such the Opposition should respect the people's present choice of party to rule the Sabah.

"If they (Opposition) have a heart, they would think of the needs of the people first" he said apparently commenting on the Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba statement yesterday in Sipitang.

In announcing the acceptance of Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) into the Barisan Nasional fold in Sipitang, Encik Ghafar said Akar would help form a strong front to take over the PBS-led State Government.

Datuk Sri Pairin said the next State election is still a long way "and maybe we (PBS) will do better next time".

Singapore

Philippine Defense Chief Meets Goh Chok Tong

BK0612120090 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] The Philippine Armed Forces chief, General Renato de Villa, today called on the prime minister and defense minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, at the istana [palace]. He is on a three-day visit at the invitation of Singapore's chief of Defense Forces, Lieutenant General Winston Choo. This morning, Gen. de Villa held talks with the second minister for defense, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong. [passage indistinct]

Joint Land Exercise With Indonesia Begins

BK1012142790 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The Singapore and Indonesian Armed Forces are taking part in their fifth combined land exercise to be held in Indonesia. (Paska Indopura P-90), as the exercise is called, started today in Bandung. [words indistinct] officers and men from both sides will involve themselves in that training exercise. The Defense Ministry said they would practice [words indistinct] planning and share knowledge to get other [words indistinct] equipment and unit capability. Mindef [Ministry of Defense] adds that the exercise is to be held annually, alternating between Indonesia and Singapore. The SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] held the first such exercise in Singapore last year.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Calls for Freeze on Leadership Plans

BK1112085090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 11 (AFP)—Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk called here Tuesday for a freeze of plans to have him lead a joint interim authority to guide Cambodia through a process to end the war there.

The faction headed by Prince Sihanouk, who is both leader of an anti-Phnom Penh guerrilla coalition and of one of its components, announced in a statement that the prince was proposing "to stop talking" about the controversial issue of leadership of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Sihanouk on Supreme National Council Leadership

BK1112122090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1202 GMT 11 Dec 90

[By Charles-Antoine de Nerciat]

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Dec 11 (AFP)—Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Tuesday a joint interim authority that would guide Cambodia through its peace process should have no head.

"There should be no more talk about the chairmanship and the vice chairmanship of the SNC (Supreme National Council)," he said in a statement in French circulated by his faction's office here. "Let us be satisfied with an SNC without a chairman or a vice-chairman.

"The SNC exists. It has 12 members. Let them work among themselves with an equal say, which is without chairmanship or vice-chairmanship," Prince Sihanouk said.

Various parties to the resolution of the conflict have called for him to head the body formed earlier this year with representatives of Cambodia's warring factions.

Prince Sihanouk, who is both leader of an anti-Phnom Penh guerrilla coalition and of one of the SNC's components, insisted that the warring factions accept the United Nations peace plan on Cambodia.

Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government has opposed key elements of the peace blueprint put together by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, saying it would not accept being dismantled.

And Hanoi has warned that it would not sign a peace settlement contravening the U.N. Charter. It charges that parts of the plan, which gives sweeping executive powers to the world organization to administer Cambodia during a period before elections, do not adhere to the charter.

The guerrilla alliance fighting Phnom Penh's government comprises the powerful Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge and two smaller non-communist factions loyal to the prince and ex-Prime Minister Son Sann.

The Khmer Rouge and its partners have demanded that the 68-year-old former Cambodian monarch be appointed chairman of the SNC even though he is not a member of the body, which was formed in early September.

Phnom Penh has accepted on condition that it is given an extra seat on the SNC and that Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen be appointed vice-chairman.

But the Khmer Rouge, which was driven from power in Cambodia 12 years ago when Vietnam invaded the country to set up a friendly government there, has rejected Mr. Hun Sen's bid to be given deputy leadership of the SNC.

The dispute has blocked progress of international efforts to end the war.

"The only vital question for Cambodia and its people is peace," Prince Sihanouk said. "The issue of the chairmanship and vice chairmanship of the SNC must be definitively put aside."

The SNC should get to work and concentrate "on the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian problem with the implementation of the peace plan," the prince added. [passage omitted]

Soviet Economic Cooperation Delegation Arrives

BK1112064690 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0455 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 11—A delegation of the USSR-Cambodia Intergovernmental Commission for Commercial, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation arrived here Monday to attend the seventh session of the Cambodia-USSR Intergovernmental Commission for Commercial, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation led by V.K. Gusev, member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee, vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and president of the Soviet section of the USSR-Cambodia Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, was warmly welcomed at Pochentong Airport by Lieutenant-General Nhim Vanda, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea [PRPK] Central Committee and minister of trade; Chhay Than, member of the PRPK Central Committee and minister of finance; Mrs. Som Kimsuor, member of the PRPK Central Committee and editor-in-chief of the party newspaper "PRACHEACHON"; and other officials.

Yuriy Myakotnykh, Soviet ambassador in Phnom Penh, was also on hand.

The sixth session of the commission was held in Moscow from Nov. 23-28, 1989.

To Negotiate New Economic Pact

BK1012162090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1603 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 10 (AFP)—A Soviet delegation arrived here Monday to negotiate an important new economic cooperation deal with Cambodia, Soviet sources said.

The Moscow team arrived in the Cambodian capital from neighbouring Laos and is led by Vladimir Gusev, vice president of the Soviet Council of Ministers.

The sources did not have details of Mr. Gusev's agenda or his length of stay.

But they said he would be here to negotiate a new economic package with ally Phnom Penh, which has relied heavily on oil imports from the Soviet Union under a five year deal that ends this year.

Soviet sources said a new agreement was likely to be signed on a one-year basis only.

One suggested Moscow might not be able to guarantee any agreement given its current problems.

Most observers expect the Soviet Government will demand dollars for future economic exchanges.

Education Minister Meets Japanese CP Delegation

BK0812065490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Comrade Yos Son, member of the party Central Committee and minister of education, held talks on 4 December with the Japanese Communist Party delegation led by its vice chairman, Tachiki Hiroshi. The two sides exchanged information on the situation of their respective countries and their views on a number of international issues of common interest.

On the Cambodian problem, the Japanese delegation expressed its welcome of the all-around successes achieved by the Cambodian people as well as its full support for the State of Cambodia's stance on a political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Tachiki Hiroshi stressed that any solution to the Cambodian problem should take into consideration the respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and that Cambodian internal affairs should be settled by the Cambodian people themselves. Moreover, measures should be taken to prevent the return of the genocidal regime to Cambodia.

The Cambodian side deeply thanked the Japanese people and the Japanese Communist Party for their constant moral and material support and assistance to the Cambodian people since the day of liberation on 7 January 1979 to the present.

The meeting was held in an atmosphere of joy and cordiality.

Heng Samrin Greets Indian President on Birthday

BK0912054890 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0422 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 9—Heng Samrin, president of the Cambodian State Council, has sent his best wishes to R. Venkataraman, president of the Republic of India, on his 80th birthday.

In his congratulatory message, President Heng Samrin said: "I would like to express profound thanks to Your Excellency and the Indian Government for the moral support and material assistance to the Cambodian people in national construction and development, especially India's efforts in finding a political solution to the Cambodian issue.

May the relationship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples be further consolidated and developed."

The message also wished the Indian president the best of health and success in his noble mission.

SRV Front Chairman Greets Chea Sim

BK1012065190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Dec 90

["Greetings message" from the chairman of the Vietnam Fatherland Front to Comrade Chea Sim, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense, KUFNCD, on the occasion of the KUFNCD's 12th founding anniversary]

[Text] The front was born when the Pol Pot clique was implementing a genocidal policy in Cambodia and [words indistinct] threatened. At that time, the front for national salvation rapidly mobilized national patriotic forces in cooperation with the Vietnamese volunteer troops to topple the genocidal Pol Pot regime, thus salvaging the Cambodian nation from the danger of genocide.

During the past 12 years, the front has stimulated the people from all walks of life to jointly strive to build a new life and develop national economy, culture, education, and public health, thus bringing about a happy life to every family. The front has also persuaded the people of all strata to join in the cause of national defense and construction.

The Vietnamese people are very happy over the great achievements scored by the fraternal Cambodian people and are convinced that the Cambodian people under the leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party headed by Comrade President Heng Samrin, the beloved and respected secretary general, will score even greater victories in the cause of building a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia.

Party Paper Acclaims Heng Samrin's Visit to Laos

BK0912053990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 8 Dec 90

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Enthusiastically Welcoming Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin's Successful Visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic"]

[Text] At the cheerful celebration with pride of the anniversary of 2 December when the Cambodian people marshalled the great national union forces and upheld the national unity under the front banner to fight and overthrow the Pol Pot regime—at present, the vigorous forces of great national union and unity are continuing to effectively carry out the task of blocking the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime to Cambodia—our party, Army, and people enthusiastically and joyfully welcome the successful outcome achieved by the high-level Cambodian party-state delegation. The delegation is led by Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia. They were attending the commemoration of the Lao National Day and have already returned home safely.

Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin's visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] between 30 November and 6 December 1990 was an important event for strengthening and developing the relations of friendship, solidarity, and fraternal cooperation between the parties, states, and peoples of Cambodia and Laos in this new stage of profound political significance for both countries.

The general secretary's separate talks with Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers, and Phoumi Vongvichit, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and acting president of the LPDR, as well as the working meeting in Vientiane between the top leaders of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, have clearly reflected their unanimity on the issue of maintaining a common objective for the sake of the Cambodian people and for peace, stability, and cooperation among the three countries and in Southeast Asia. Both the Lao and Vietnamese sides again showed their total material and moral support for the Cambodian people's just cause of struggle and reaffirmed their continued close cooperation with the State of Cambodia [SOC].

On the Cambodian peace process, both the Lao and Vietnamese sides highly valued the just and goodwill stance and the drive of the SOC to reach a common and just political solution which is relevant to the concrete situation in Cambodia and based on the framework of a national reconciliation and respect for Cambodia's national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and for the Cambodian people's rights to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter. This is aimed at rebuilding a Cambodia with peace, independence, neutrality, and nonalignment free from outside intervention and without the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

The warmest reception was given in the spirit of indissoluble solidarity and with respect and affection for Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin by the leading cadres and people in the three Lao northern provinces during the visit of the high-level Cambodian party and state delegation, and this was clear evidence that the fraternal relations of solidarity and friendship between the peoples of the two countries remain unbroken forever.

The Cambodian party, government, and people throughout the country feel safeguarded, as they have seen that the Lao revolution has grown steadily and that the relations of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between Cambodia and Laos as well as among Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos have constantly strengthened and developed. They would like to profoundly thank the brotherly Lao party, government, and people for their unreserved moral and material support and assistance to the Cambodian people's just cause of struggle. The Cambodian people would like to express their respect and love for the brotherly Lao people. May the Lao people, under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the LPRP, achieve new, still greater successes in their task of rebuilding Laos toward progress and prosperity.

Defense Minister Tie Banh Visits Army School

BK0912081290 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Summary] At the opening of the training course on party and political affairs at the Army's party school on 5 December, General Tie Banh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister, visited the school and cordially chatted with students and teachers.

General Tie Banh praised cadres for their past heroic example in carrying out tasks to defend the localities and ensure safety for the people. He called on the students to overcome the maneuvers and psychological warfare of the enemies, which are aimed at destroying the people's peaceful life. General Tie Banh also called on cadres to heighten their vigilance to oppose the genocidal Pol Pot regime and eliminate negative phenomena in the armed forces.

Armed Forces Intensify Counterattacks

BK0912073790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] While the three enemy groups are anxious because of continuous heavy setbacks, our armed forces in all military regions have kept vigilent and have actively intensified their counterattacks against the enemy, winning victory after victory.

In the four days from 30 November to 3 December, our armed forces in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Kompong Thom Provinces, in 16 counterattacks launched against the enemy, put out of action 92 enemy soldiers, including 54 killed, 21 wounded, three captured, and 14 who were forced to surrender. We seized 85 assorted firearms, one field radio, and a significant quantity of war materiel.

98 Enemy Soldiers Killed in Week Ended 1 Dec

BK1112063690 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0446 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK December 11—In the week to Dec. 1, enemy battery units fired hundreds of artillery and mortar shells on areas in the northwestern border provinces of Battambang and Banteay Meanchey, of which Kouk Mon was the hardest.

Counter-attacking the enemy troops sneaking in across the border, the government troops killed 98 men, captured 11, and forced 15 others to surrender. They also seized 64 guns of various calibers.

Finance Ministry To Issue Bonds for Sale

BK0812080590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Summary] To collect funds for restoring and developing socio-economic tasks, in particular to assist war refugees, the Council of Ministers has charged the Finance Ministry and the National Bank with issuing three types of national bonds for sale: bonds of 5,000 to 1 million riels [Cambodian currency] with a 28.8-percent annual interest rate; bonds of 5 to 10 million riels without interest for a period of more than five years, at the end of which the bond owner is eligible to use this money to import tax-free goods; and bonds of 5,000 to 2 million riels to be sold as patriotic bonds to those who want to contribute to national construction.

A bond is valid only if it carries the signature of the Finance Minister with the stamp and signature of the assigned National Bank cadre. The first and second types of bonds use gold as the basis: 10,000 riels are equal to 3 hun (1 hun is 0.375 gram) and 3 li (1 li is 1/10 of 1 hun) of gold.

KPNLF on Phnom Penh's 'Intransigent Attitude'

BK0912081090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] The Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] issued a press communique specifiying that the regime propped up by Vietnam has taken an instransigent attitude and that this regime wants to destroy the Jakarta agreement and the framework document of the five major powers.

The KPNLF stressed that the Vietnam-installed Heng Samrin-Hun Sen communist regime has ignored the international community's appeal for unity and peace in Cambodia. The KPNLF also stressed that, through Hun Sen, the Heng Samrin communist regime clearly shows that this regime has chosen to continue the war and has been constantly and forcefully drafting youths to serve this policy of continuing the war. The KPNLF further pointed out that the Vietnam-installed communist regime wants Cambodia to be ruined by war to facilitate Vietnam's annexation of Cambodia.

Resistance Attacks Enemy Positions in Takeo

BK0812032490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] On 30 November, our national resistance forces attacked the following positions of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their lackey puppets: a regimental position at Trapeang Koah, a company position at Ta Sok dam, two platoon positions at Chrak Tvea Noreay and Spean Pi, and the administrative networks in Noreay Commune, Tramkak District, Takeo Province.

We killed 18 enemy soldiers—including a regiment commander, a battalion commander, and a company commander—on the battlefield, wounded four, and captured six others. We destroyed 120 assorted firearms, two depots, 58 barracks, two motorbikes, and some war materiel, and we seized four machine guns, an RPK machine gun, an AK rifle, six RPM guns, two AR-15 rifles, an M-79 grenade launcher, two B-40 and B-41 rocket launchers, a 60-mm mortar, a 80-mm mortar, a pistol, and some ammunition and war materiel. We liberated the following seven villages: Trapeang Chak, Trapeang Russei, Trapeang Kok, and Kal Kong in Nhe Nhang Commune, and Noreay, Khnai Romeas, and Puos Pong in Noreay Commune, and we freed 20 local officials.

Radio Calls for Developing National Unity Forces

BK0812044590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Station commentary: "Developing National Unity Forces To Attack and Dismantle the Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors' Administrative Networks in Our Homeland To Set Up and Expand the National Council Throughout the Country for Expediting a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodian Problem in Accordance With the Five-Chapter Framework Document of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council"]

[Text] At present, despite successive serious talks held by the international community and the United Nations—in particular the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC]—to hammer out a comprehensive political settlement to the Cambodian problem, and despite gracious concessions continually made by the Cambodian National Resistance [CNR], the Vietnamese and their lackey puppets have shown neither a softer attitude nor goodwill to settle the Cambodian problem via an overall political solution.

They instead have hardened their uncompromising stance against the international community by objecting to the framework document of the five UNSC permanent members, the Jakarta document on the establishment of the Supreme National Council [SNC] headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Resolution No. 668 of the UNSC, an enhanced UN role in a political settlement of the Cambodian problem, the dispatch of a UN peacekeeping force to Cambodia, and a UN transitional authority in the country.

The stance and attitude adopted by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets and lackeys are clear evidence that the enemies are not willing to resolve the Cambodian problem via a comprehensive political solution to put an end to the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia. The only thing the Vietnamese want to do is to continue invading and occupying Cambodia in keeping with Vietnam's Indochinese federation strategy.

Faced with the unyielding stance of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their lackey puppets, it is imperative that the entire Cambodian people and the CNR continue to uphold the great national unity in order to fight and decimate the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, in particular to dismantle the Vietnamese-puppet administrative networks in villages and communes throughout the country.

In the past, our people's national unity forces, hand in hand with the CNR, attacked and scattered the Vietnamese-puppet administrative networks in a great many villages and communes—in particular, in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear, Battambang, Kompong Cham, Kompong Speu, Kampot, and so on—and then set up the national council there.

Attacking and dismantling the Vietnamese administrative networks and establishing the national council have a significant meaning of:

1. Preventing the Vietnamese enemy aggressors from continuing to rule over, oppress, and persecute our Cambodian people and from plundering their paddies and rice, leveling taxes, and drafting them and their children to fight and die in their place. In other words, this is to impair the Vietnamese enemy aggressors' and

their lackey puppets' attempt to protract the war of aggression against Cambodia.

2. Providing Cambodian officials, militiamen, and soldiers forced by the Vietnamese enemies to serve their interests with support and opportunity to flee from Vietnamese control and rally to the great national unity force and national councils in villages and communes to restart their lives as ordinary citizens under the auspices of the national councils and join forces with the CNR and the national council to fight the Vietnamese aggressors.

3. Thwarting the Vietnamese enemies' efforts to hide troops in Cambodia. At present, the Vietnamese enemies can hide their troops, who occupy Cambodia because of the puppet authorities' conspiracy. After the Vietnamese enemies' administrative networks are dismantled and our authorities established in villages and communes, we will blow the cover of the Vietnamese agents, male and female, implanted in villages and communes to foil their continued attempt to occupy and control our localities.

That being the case, it is indispensable that our great national unity forces continue to attack, scatter, and dismantle the Vietnamese enemy aggressors' and their lackey puppets' administrative networks and set up local national councils everywhere in the country.

The Cambodian people do not like war, and prefer security and peace which allows them to safely earn their living. If the Vietnamese and puppets continue to drag out the war and invade and occupy Cambodia, the great national Cambodian unity forces are obliged to fight the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, in particular to attack and dismantle their administrative networks in villages and communes until they are forced to accept a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem in line with the framework document of the five UNSC permanent members, the Jakarta document, and the UNSC's Resolution No. 668.

VONADK Criticizes Sale of Government Bonds

BK1112024890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The traitorous puppet regime of Hun Sen and Heng Samrin, lackeys of the Vietnamese enemies, has collapsed.

The announcement by the Vietnamese aggressors and their lackeys Hun Sen and Heng Samrin, ringleaders of the traitorous puppet regime, on the sale of their so-called bonds constitutes another clear proof that:

1. The traitorous puppet regime of Hun Sen and Heng Samrin—Vietnamese lackeys—has collapsed.

2. This is an irretrievable loan to them.

3. This loan aims at stealing people's money.

4. This loan is intended to plunder the people.

This is the method that the Vietnamese aggressors have used for plundering and bleeding our Cambodian nation and people.

Indonesia

Difficulties of Uruguay Round of Talks Viewed

BK0612105990 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0930 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 6 (OANA-ANTARA)—Junior Minister of Trade Sud[illegible]ad Jiwandono said that the final Uruguay round talks in Brussels have slowed down due to the many topics and items that it had to discuss and settle.

Speaking to members of the Indonesian Managers Club on the Uruguay round of talks here Thursday [6 December], the minister said that trade ministers who gathered in Punta del Este, Uruguay in 1986 were too ambitious to settle trade problems in 15 sectors.

Trade ministers are meeting in Brussels (Dec 3-7), Belgium, to negotiate the final Uruguay round where officials from 107 GATT contracting countries are taking part. The 15 topics they are discussing include agricultural subsidies, tropical products, and intellectual property rights.

He said that one of the problems which impeded the talks was the different positions between the European Economic Community on the one part and the United States and 15 countries of the Cairns group on the other.

EEC is prepared to cut its agricultural subsidies gradually within ten years by 30 per cent. But the United States and the Cairns group proposed a deep cut by 75-90 per cent in the subsidies.

Commenting on the talks, the minister said that the negotiation could fail. If it fails, all countries would feel its adverse effects. All countries realize that they will suffer from its adverse effects if the talks fail. They have not yet found the way how to solve this problem, the minister added.

To prevent any failure, Indonesia proposed that all trade ministers taking part in the Brussels negotiation should make a decision which is political in nature.

Some time ago, Minister of Trade Arifin Siregar said that if the talks failed, trade negotiations should be carried out bilaterally.

Bilateral negotiations usually harm the interests of the developing countries.

Touching on the Indonesian trade opportunity amidst stiff competition and protectionism, Minister Jiwandono said that businesses should adjust themselves to the market they wanted to enter. Businesses should be able to adjust themselves to their trade partners, he explained.

To penetrate Eastern European markets, for example, businesses can establish counter-purchase trade relations with their partners, the minister said. He advised the Indonesian businesses to make more agressive efforts in penetrating the world market.

Minister Speaks on Oil Production Quota, Price

BK0712132790 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] In line with the OPEC agreement on oil production quota in June, Indonesia was allowed to produce 1.3 million barrels per day only, but this month, the country is allowed to produce 1.4 million barrels per day. In January 1991, it will even produce 1.5 million barrels per day.

Speaking in Jakarta today, Mining and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said Indonesia is ready to reduce its oil production as soon as the Gulf crisis is over. However, this will happen on condition that other OPEC members also comply with the existing agreement on production quotas.

The minister noted that the upcoming meeting of OPEC oil ministers on 12 December will discuss preparations to cope with a situation when the Gulf crisis is over, during which an oil oversupply in the world market is expected. Another topic to be discussed is how to prevent the global oil price from falling below $18 per barrel once the Gulf conflict is resolved.

Fertilizer Export To PRC Slated For 1991

BK1112022690 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0000 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Indonesia plans to export 500,000 tons of fertilizers to the PRC next year as a follow-up to the normalization of diplomatic relations with that country. Wardiata, director general of basic chemical industries, said this to newsmen in Surabaya yesterday after opening a workshop on pesticide safety control.

Wardiata said the planned fertilizer export is being prepared carefully so as not to affect domestic consumption. The PRC has to import 8.5 million tons of fertilizers annually. As a response to Indonesia's willingness to supply fertilizers, the PRC will export 1.5 million tons of cement to Indonesia next year. Meanwhile, several cement factories in Indonesia will also increase their production to meet current domestic demands.

Government Issues New Stock Market Policy

BK0612135590 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Text] Finance Minister Sumarlin has issued a stock market policy to be effective from 2 January 1991. The main point of the stock market policy issued under Decree of the Finance Minister No. 1548/1990 is that the Stock Market Executive Agency [Bapepam] will stop managing the stock exchange. The goverment instituted the policy to end Bapepam's dual roles as a referee and a player of the stock market.

Speaking during a news conference in Jakarta this afternoon, Basilius Ruru, head of the Public Relations Bureau of the Department of Finance, said the development of the stock market and the supervision of securities firms are currently handled by two agencies within the Department of Finance, i.e. Bapepam and the Directorate General of Domestic Monetary Affairs. As a supervisor, the agency will be authorized to develop the stock market and issue operating permits for securities firms.

Under this decree, a securities firm can conduct more than one activity on the condition that its capital must be cumulative of the prescribed levels for its activity. The paid-up capital for an underwriter is set at 5 billion rupiah, while its net adjusted working capital is set at 500 million rupiah.

Laos

PASASON Rebuffs U.S. on Narcotics Issue

BK1012133590 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 8 (KPL)—"PASASON" daily newspaper, the organ of the Party Central Committee, today frontpages an article on narcotics issue referring to a report of September, 1990 by the U.S. Foreign Department which in some parts of the report accuses the mountainous region development company attached to the Lao Ministry of National Defence of being the main promoter of opium plantation in Laos, conducting narcotics transaction with foreign countries, and also accuses Laos of not honouring the contracts signed.

In this connection, after its consultation with the National Narcotic Control Committee of Laos the paper says that as it is a party to the Vienna Convention of 1861 on narcotics and has contributed to the drafting of the 1989 UN declaration on the issue, the Lao Government is deeply aware of the narcotics danger to mankind in terms of health, and considers it as a plague to society and culture. Despite that it stresses there are some countries which still do not, in this respect, understand the situation in Laos and even try by all means to put pressure on the Lao Government to meet their unilateral demand.

The paper quotes the National Narcotics Control Committee as saying that the poppies plantation and trade in Laos have existed for nearly 18 centuries, the practice has become part of the livelihood of most of mountainous people. So such a habit cannot be given up over night within a short period of time.

It is generally known that the poppies plantation in Laos as well as in other parts of the world has been encouraged by the increasing demand on the external market, especially in the USA. So if one accuses the other without taking into account the cause and effect, it is able to reply in a few words that immediatly stopping opium purchase will automatically lead to an immediate end of the supply. However, the paper says, the Lao Governement has tried to solve the issue by several possible methods and measures aimed at restricting and leading to an eventual eradication of poppies plantation.

The paper pointed to the real objective of the company which is to bring the development and prosperity to the people in remote areas. One of its notable achievements involves encouraging the people in the area to give up the poppies plantation and to take up fixed farming, hence making a happy and new life for them.

Judging from the reason, the paper reiterates, such accusations against this Lao company in the report of the international narcotics office of the U.S. Foreign Department are completely a fabrication against the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic].

If the U.S. side really wishes to contribute to reducing the poppies plantation, in the first place, it should acknowledge the effort of this company, instead of conducting a hostile policy against each other, or is it because the U.S. side has some ulterior motive in its undermining of the image of this company.

Reportage on Visit by USSR Cooperation Group

Meets With Phoumi Vongvichit

BK1012142390 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 10 (KPL)—Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] yesterday evening received here a visiting delegation of the Soviet-Lao Cooperation Commission led by its President Vladimir Kuzmich Gusev, who is also vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union.

The acting president and the delegation discussed the internal situation in each country and reaffirmed the need to further the Lao-Soviet relationship and all-round cooperation.

Before calling on the acting president the Soviet-Lao commission and the Lao-Soviet commission for cooperation in economy and technical science held the 12th session. The Lao side was led by its President Phao Bounnaphon, minister of foreign economic relations.

The two commissions for bilateral cooperation during their meeting discussed six main issues. These involved the result of the Lao-Soviet economic and trade cooperation in the years 1986-1990, the implementation of the resolution of their 11th session, the preparation for the 1991 cooperation plan. Also raised were the future cooperation, the shift to a new mechanism, the application of a new form of business cooperation between Lao-Soviet enterprises, and the organisations of the Lao PDR and the Soviet Union on the result of the Lao-Soviet economic cooperation during the past five-year plan and on the time and venue for the 13th session of the commissions.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

BK1112125390 Vientiane KPL in English 0853 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 11 (KPL)—A protocol was signed here yesterday morning following the 12th session of the commissions for the economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Laos and the Soviet Union which lasted 2 days.

Based on the issues raised at the 12th session of the commissions, the protocol covers the preparation for cooperation plans for the coming year 1991 and for the future with reference to the introduction of the new economic mechanism, the introduction of various forms of new business joint ventures, including contacts between Lao and Soviet enterprises and organisations and others in the framework of the mutual cooperation.

The signatories to the protocol were, on the Lao side, Mr. Phao Bounnaphon, minister of foreign economic relations and president of the Lao-Soviet cooperation commission, and, on the Soviet side, Mr. Vladimir Kuzmich Gusev, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and president of the Soviet-Lao cooperation commission.

In addition, Lao and Soviet technicians, on this occasion, also signed a memorandum following their consultation on establishing a Lao-Soviet joint venture enterprise in tin mining in Laos.

The tin mining, according to the memorandum, is due to operate at Nongsoun and Boneng in the central Khammouane Province. The initial stage of the cooperation will start in June 1991.

Economic Cooperation With USSR Reviewed

BK1112111890 Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 11 (KPL)—Laos and the Soviet Union have since 1986 closely cooperated in increasing efficiency of bilateral economic cooperation by putting fund in important economic development projects of Laos and the maximum use of technical assistance from the Soviet Union. This was in line with a signed cooperation programme of 1986 as well as the second 5-year cooperation plan of the Lao-Soviet cooperation commissions.

During the period, 15 cooperation projects were implemented. These involved the construction of Road [No.]

9, Se Banghiang Bridge, the middle level politechnical school in Vientiane, the 150-bed hospital, a 30-bed hospital, and others.

So far achieved were the projects of Sedon Bridge construction, the heavy vehicle maintenance workshop and others in Savannakhet.

However, some projects are not yet implemented, such as the project of supplying equipment to the Vientiane agricultural school. Others are under construction. These include the Theun River bridge on Road [No.] 8, the survey and design for the maintenance of Vientiane Airport and Pakse Airport.

PRC's Prime Minister Li Peng To Visit 'Soon'

BK1112095290 Vientiane KPL in English 0849 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, December 11 (KPL)—At the invitation of the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a governmental delegation of the People's Republic of China led by its prime minister, Li Peng, will pay an official good-will visit to Laos soon, indicates a press release of the Lao Foreign Ministry.

SRV Public Health Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK0912093990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] A delegation of the Public Health Ministry from the SRV led by its minister, Pham Son, arrived in Vientiane city at noon on 6 December.

On the afternoon of the same day, a delegation of the Lao Public Health Ministry led by Public Health Minister Khambou Sounisai and the Vietnamese delegation met to discuss a public health cooperation plan between the two countries. During the meeting, both sides informed each other about the improvement and expansion of public health service networks, training of medical personnel, construction of new hopitals, development of medical treatment in their respective countries, and other issues of common interest.

Japanese Volunteers Office Reopens in Vientiane

BK1012142590 Vientiane KPL in English 0933 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 10 (KPL)—A ceremony was held here on Dec. 8 to open the office of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Programme (JOCV). The decision was made following the signing of an agreement in 1989.

Present at the ceremony among other officials were Mr. Sisavat Keobounphan, chief administrator of the Vientiane prefecture, Prof. Bountiam Phitsamai, vice minister of foreign economic relations, HE [His Excellency] Shigemi Ando, ambassador of Japan to Laos.

Addressing the audience, Prof. Bountiem Phitsamai, vice-minister of foreign economic relations expressed the Lao Government and people's high appreciation for the Japanese continual assistance in socio-economic development in Laos and the presence of JOCV in Laos is another manifestation of such gesture.

Prof. Bountiam Phitsamai said the return of Japanese volunteers "symbolized the promotion and expansion of the good relations, cooperation, friendship and understanding between Laos and Japan".

Taken turn to address the gathering, HE Shigemi Ando, ambassador of Japan to Laos expressed his joy that "after a decade of suspension, the JOCV activities could start again in Laos which he said undoubtedly represented a step forward signalling the expansion of the friendship and cooperation between Japan and Laos".

Giving history to the activities of JOCV, the Japanese ambassador said the JOCV was inaugurated in 1965. During its 25 years of operation over 10,000 volunteers have been dispatched to 39 developing countries.

In Laos, the initial bilateral agreement was signed in 1965. From that date to 1978, 250 volunteers worked in the country. And since the agreement was renewed in 1989, four Japanese volunteers have been assigned to work in Laos.

Thai-Lao Border Subcommittee To Attend Meeting

BK1112112890 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 11 (KPL)—The Lao-Thai technical subcommittee on border led by Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun, deputy director of the International Organisations Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will attend a follow-up meeting on December 12 at Muang Phae village, Naheao District of Thai Loei Province, with the Thai-Lao technical subcommittee on border, indicated a press release of the Lao-Thai border subcommittee.

The border subcommittees of the two countries will jointly carry out on-the-spot inspection in additional areas: Huang River watershed, Heuang Nga River watershed, and the confluence of Huang and Heuang Nga Rivers. This is to gather facts to be compared with the result of a fact finding made in 1989.

Their meeting is held according to a note of their last meeting on November 6-7 in Bangkok.

Nouhak Phoumsavan Receives Palestinian Envoy

BK0712122490 Vientiane KPL in English 0932 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 7 (KPL)—The president of the People's Supreme Assembly of Laos, yesterday received the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Palestine Mr. Shahir 'Abdallah who is about to complete his mission here.

Mr. Shahir 'Abdallah has assumed his post since September 19, 1989.

Phoumi Vongvichit Meets Envoy

BK0912134090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Republic, received Shahir 'Abdallah, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Palestine, at the presidential office yesterday morning. Shahir 'Abdallah, who has completed his diplomatic mission in Laos, bade farewell to the acting president. The acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic hailed the endeavors made by the ambassdor to contribute to the strengthening of Lao-Palestinian relations. Speaking on behalf of the LPDR Government and Lao people, the acting president reaffirmed the unswerving stand and support for the heroic and just struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation and expressed his firm belief that the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, will be able to score brilliant victories.

Thai Convicts Jailed on Heroin Charges Sent Home

BK0512111690 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 5 (KPL)—Eleven Thai prisoners of heroin case who finished serving a 2-year sentence in jail in Laos, on Dec 3, were sent home.

The hand-over of the eleven Thai citizens was made at the Tha Deua border point between the Lao and Thai authorities concerned.

Early this year, eight Thai prisoners of the same case were returned to the Thai authority.

New Village for Refugees Built in Sayaboury

BK0812040190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] Mrs. (Darlin Tyler), representative of the United Nations High Commisioner for Refugees [UNHCR] to Laos, and (Misai Yotluesai), representative of the Ministry of Social Welfare and War Veterans, recently inspected a project to build a new village for repatriated Lao refugees in Phiang District, Sayaboury Province. The project was launched on 16 Ocrtober this year. The construction of the first phase of the project with 10 houses and two wells—worth more than 4.1 million kip—has been 95 percent completed. The second phase of the project—worth more than 4.3 million kip—with six houses, six wells, and 10 latrines, began on 19 November 1990. The fund for the construction of the project was provided by the UNHCR to Laos.

93 Lao Refugees Return Home From Thailand

BK0512105490 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Text] Vientiane, Dec 5 (KPL)—Ninety three Lao refugees from 20 families were welcomed home yesterday at a ceremony held in the Hatsaifong Town Hall.

The returnees were originally from Meuang Phiang, Sayaboury Province. Before repatriating, they were stationed in the Thai Chiang Kham refugee camp (Phayao Province).

The ceremony was witnessed by officials of both Laos and Thailand together with officials from the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees].

In 1990, 17 batches of Lao refugees returned home. The next batch will arrive on December 10, 1990.

Lao Refugees Resettled in Sayaboury Province

BK0912133890 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Twenty-one Lao refugee families recently arrived at the reception center in Phiang District, Sayaboury Province. The local administration, with assistance from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Office, is now providing land for constructing new houses and production for these people. So far, 95 percent of the first assistance program for the refugees, which includes the construction of seven houses and the digging of two wells, is now complete. The second program involves the construction of six houses, the digging of six wells, and provision of other necessities.

Phillipines

Military on Alert for Assassination Rumors

HK1112115190 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The Armed Forces has again been placed on alert to prevent the possible assassination of top military officials and leaders of big companies supportive of President Aquino by right-wing rebels. In an intelligence report received by the military, the rightist elements allegedly plan to remove the leaders of the military and big companies in order to overthrow the present administration. Among those planned to be killed is Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Major General Rodolfo Biazon.

Ramos Denies Need for Military Takeover

HK1112111590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today said that a declaration of martial law is not the answer to the country's current problems. Here is Josette Olivera with the details:

[Begin recording] Ramos made the statement in reaction to economist Alejandro Lichauco's statement that a military takeover would resolve the country's economic problems. Ramos explained that presently a military takeover or imposition of martial law is not needed. According to him, only two situations can give rise to a national emergency declaration: The first is for the improvement of the economy, like President Aquino's declaration in December last year due to economic problems aggravated by the failed coup. The second relates to the security aspect, but in 1989 the president did not even impose martial law despite the bloody uprising. He also cited the factors which aggravated the country's economic problems: the 16 July killer earthquake, and the Gulf crisis followed by the oil price increase. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Secretary Ramos ordered an extensive manhunt for the unidentified men who killed two labor leaders inside the Ateneo de Manila University campus yesterday. Josette Olivera reports:

[Begin recording] In his directive to Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief General Renato de Villa and Major General Cesar Nazareno, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief, he ordered a thorough investigation into the killing and immediate follow-up operation for the assassins' arrest. Killed were labor leaders Eduardo Federico and Ernesto Gonzales, president and treasurer of the Bacolod City-based Democratic Independent Workers Association. The two were killed after they were shot by still unidentified men armed with .45 caliber pistol and M-16 armalite in a convention held at 1145 [0315 GMT] yesterday morning. [end recording]

Situation Peaceful Despite Protests

HK1112093190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today said the nationwide situation was peaceful and orderly, despite yesterday's strike and demonstrations by protest groups. Ramos stated, however, that the military will continue to monitor events in Metro Manila in order to be prepared for any untoward incidents. He repeated his call for calm and unity among the people in facing the crisis gripping the nation. Here is Secretary Ramos' statement:

[Begin recording in English] That is the tendency as they gather or are able to gather for rallies to join them from even other sectors when this is bound to get bigger. [sentence as heard] On the other hand it appears that on this first day, they have not been able to generate much support from the other sectors. So, let us just watch it. [end recording]

Aquino Pledges To Provide Strong Leadership

HK0712140690 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Dec 90

[By Dick Sinchongco from Malacanang—live or recorded]

[Text] President Aquino remained firm in her decision not to leave her post and assured that she would give the Filipino people what she called strong leadership in order to solve the series of crises currently facing the country.

Regarding the possible cabinet changes, the president said that she had mentioned a long time ago that there was the possibility of changes, though not widespread, in some cabinet posts. According to the president, this was related to the nature of the post and not the competence of the person serving in that post. In a statement the president said: I have said that there could be a few changes in the cabinet from time to time. This really goes with the nature of the position rather than the occupants' competence. The president said that thorough leadership, not resignation, is what the people want, and I am determined to provide them with that. This was the president's response to the call of three senators, Senators Juan Ponce-Enrile, Orlando Mercado, and Ernesto Maceda, who accused the president that she was fooling the people. According to President Aquino, and we wish to quote her: And far from deceiving our people I have always leveled with them, even during hard times. Prior to this, Enrile, Mercado, and Maceda had accused the president of deceiving the people after denying that she knew anything about the sudden oil price increase which was approved by the Energy Regulatory Board. The president's response to a possible cabinet change was in response to queries about whether Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig, Jr. was slated to be fired. This announcement by the president, which seems almost like a confirmation that there may be changes in the cabinet, was followed by the convening of an emergency cabinet meeting this afternoon.

ERB Chairman Resigns; Oil Price Reduction Set

HK1012093990 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Marcelo Fernando, Energy Regulatory Board [ERB] chairman, submitted his letter of resignation yesterday as a result of Malacanang's plan to once more roll back the price of oil to their 5 December level. In his letter to the president, Fernando explained that although Malacanang's suggestion would make the people's burden easier, the ERB, which decided on the oil price increase, would appear stupid.

President Aquino had requested the ERB to once again roll back the price of premium gasoline to 15.95 pesos per liter and regular gas to 15.00 per liter. Although the president did not mention anything about Fernando's planned resignation, Malacanang insiders say that the president will ask Fernando to reconsider his decision. [passage omitted]

Aquino Defends Energy Board Chairman

HK1012095190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] President Aquino refused the appeal to dismiss or arrest Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia. According to Aquino, there is no basis to accuse them of treason and economic sabotage. Meanwhile, the president has not yet decided to accept the resignation of Energy Regulatory Board Chairman Mariano Marcelo Fernando. Mrs Aquino defended him. Here is Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III with the president's statement.

[Begin recording in English] A strong leadership is called for and will be provided. The president shall make the approriate announcements regarding changes in the cabinet shortly. All cabinet members have no fixed term, but serve as the president directs in accordance with the exigencies of public service. There is only so much that we can do to soften the harsh blows of the energy crisis. All must bear these hardships and work together in the national effort to surmount it. Government will lead the way in sacrifice and austerity. Prices of commodities will have to reflect costs and prices that do not reflect the lessened costs can and will be proceeded against. [sentence as heard]

Chairman Fernando and the ERB have simply been doing their sworn duty in serving our people as called for by their positions. The president has a recommendation for courageous public servants like these and she will confer with Chairman Fernando on his resignation. He has been heroically doing his job at great sacrifice to himself and his family. President Aquino finds these demands without basis and she is sure the majority of the legislators feel the same. Our chances of an early IMF approval of our economic program are good, especially if Congress will support our proposals along these lines.

The president has certified measures for the alien stay legalization fee and the increase of forest charges. She has prepared several more proposed revenue raising measures for certification and shall confer with the leaders of Congress on these matters in preparation for the special session she is going to call. [end recording]

Aquino Urges No Hoarding, Price Manipulation

HK1112053590 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino admitted that prices of prime commodities will increase following the increase in oil prices. However, she appealed to businessmen not to hoard and manipulate prices. Regarding this, Philippine Chamber of Commerce President Aurelio Periquet Jr. proposed that price control should take effect until 21 December and that it needs constant monitoring. The president again appealed to the people to cooperate with the government, and it would not be long until the nation overcame the present crisis.

Aquino Approves Non-Wage Benefits for Workers

HK1112052190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Dec 90 p 6

[By Tony Begornia]

[Text] President Aquino has approved the grant of non-wage benefits to government workers in place of wage increases, an official of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said yesterday.

The President, according to Sen. Santanina Rasul, was also willing to grant the demand for a P1,000 [peso] raise in government wages, but on condition that Congress could identify the source of funds from which the salary hikes would come.

Gerry Zafra, director of DBM's compensation and position classification bureau, told the Senate committee on civil service that the President has ordered the Civil Service Commission and the DBM to implement a package of non-wage benefits for government employes.

Zafra said the package is essentially the conversion of sick leaves and vacation leaves to cash and making them available to workers in times of emergency.

Rasul, chairman of the committee, said the President sympathizes with the government workers and was willing to grant the P [peso] 1,000 raise in their salary provided there are funds for it.

Sen. Alberto Romulo, author of a bill seeking the grant of P12,000 increase in government wages, said funding for the salary increase could come from either a reduction in the government's maintenance and operating expenses or from a reduction in the government's debt payment.

But Zafra said the maintenance and operating expenses could not be reduced because it included "mandatory" expenses like rentals.

The senators, however, remained unconvinced. "If the government was more frugal and if there were less graft and corruption, there would be enough money to pay for the salary increases," Rasul said.

Romulo also said there is P18 billion available from reducing maintenance and operating expenses, but Zafra said this should be covered by a separate appropriation.

Aquino Confident of IMF Approval of New Loans

HK1112040490 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Dec 90 pp 1, 12

[Text] President Aquino expressed confidence yesterday that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would approve the country's economic program and some $700 million in new loans, especially if Congress acts on proposed measures to put the fiscal house in order.

"Our chances of an early IMF approval of our economic program are good, especially if Congress will support our proposals along these lines," the President said, apparently referring to tax measures to raise government revenues that have met opposition from legislators.

At the same time, Mrs. Aquino rejected calls of some sectors for the arrest and ouster of Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia allegedly for treason and economic sabotage, specifically by batting the economic program endorsed by the IMF that allegedly led to the sudden increase in oil prices and foreign exchange crisis.

"I find these demands without basis and I am sure the majority of the legislators feel the same," Mrs. Aquino said in response to the demand of Congressmen Venancio Garduce and Gregorio Andolana for their ouster.

Asked to comment on the call for his ouster, Estanislao said: "That's good. That's very good."

On the adverse reaction over the increase in premium and regular gasoline, the President said: "There is only so much that we can do to soften the harsh blows of the energy crisis. All must bear these hardships and work together in the national effort to surmount it. Government will lead the way in sacrifice and austerity."

"Prices of commodities will have to reflect costs and prices that do not reflect the lessened costs can and will be proceeded against," she said.

Mrs. Aquino said that the executive department has certified measures for the alien-stay legalization fee and the increase of forest charges to generate more government revenues and thereby achieve the goal of cutting down the consolidated public sector deficit in 1991 by P [peso] 55 billion.

She added that Malacanang has prepared several more proposed revenue-raising measures for certification which she will discuss with Congress leaders in preparation for a special session which she is going to call.

Transport Secretary Named Executive Secretary

HK1012112990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Dec 90

[By Dick Sinchongco from Malacanang—live]

[Excerpt] In relation to the resignation of Executive Secretary Catalino Macaraig, Jr. which the president has already accepted, the president has designated Arturo Corona as acting secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications [DOTC] effective today, to replace outgoing Secretary Oscar Orbos. Orbos was appointed by the president as Macaraig's replacement for the post of executive secretary.

Prior to this, the president expressed her gratitude to Secretary Macaraig for his three years of service and said that she owed him a lot. Aside from this, the president explained that Macaraig's resignation would take effect on 14 December upon the adjournment of Congress. He will now be considered absent and Secretary Orbos has been designated as acting executive secretary until 14 December, when his ad interim appointment will be announced and his nomination as executive secretary is presented to the Commission on Appointments. Orbos' replacement at the DOTC is Arturo Corona, undersecretary for water and air transportation and concurrently executive director of the Civil Aeronautics Board. [passage omitted]

To Hold Public Consultations

HK1112053190 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Newly appointed Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos pledges to hold public consultations regularly so that national problems are addressed immediately. In his most recent statement, Secretary Orbos says that instead of criticizing, people should be busy working and looking for solutions to our present problems.

Further Reportage on National Transport Strike

Davao Military, Police on Alert

HK1112093590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The military and police in Davao City are on alert in preparation for a national strike in the area. This was reported by PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] Regional Commander Colonel Manuel Salimbahon, saying he enforced this to prevent violence from recurring in the city and nearby provinces. He stressed they will use the full force of the law to protect the peaceful citizens. The strike in Davao City is protesting the rise in prices of petroleum products.

Camarines Governor Interviewed

HK1112095790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Interview with Camarines Sur Governor Louie Villafuerte by anchorman Joe Taruc—live]

[Excerpt] [Taruc] Can you give a situation update, sir, on the strikes which were launched in the Bicol region?

[Villafuerte] Since Friday, people have been gathering for what they called a nationwide strike in protest against the exorbitant oil price increase exacerbated by the proposed taxes which the president seems likely to approve when she called for a special session by the Congress. In our province, not one transportation vehicle operated—public or private. Even the horse-drawn vehicle which does not need gasoline cooperated.

[Taruc] Did this apply to the whole of Camarines Sur, Governor?

[Villafuerte] Yes. The whole of Camarines Sur was united. The people gathered in our public plaza where they voiced their concerns and grievances on the hardships they are now experiencing.

[Taruc] What about the industrial companies in your province?

[Villafuerte] We have only a few industrial companies but even the corner stores closed down yesterday. Also the schools and offices were closed.

[Taruc] Was this the overall situation in the Bicol region, Governor?

[Villafuerte] Yes. The sentiment against the present difficulties is overwhelming. The protest, however, was very peaceful. There were no injuries. There was no property destruction. But there was no transportation vehicle plying the roads and no one was buying gasoline. The people went out to the streets to let the authorities know of their grievances.

[Taruc] Until when will this situation prevail in your province?

[Villafuerte] Tomorrow, Joe, I will know. I have directed my administrative staff to get information and report the developments to me. [passage omitted]

Middle Class Participation Viewed

HK1112040190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[By staff members Booma Cruz and Mel Elona, with reports from Joey Caburnida, Diana Mendoza, Rex Aguado, Manny Mogato, and Vic Vizcocho]

[Text] The nationwide Welga ng Bayan [nationwide strike] launched yesterday in protest against the new oil price increases took a different dimension with the participation of the middle class—professionals, businessmen as well as government and private sector employees.

In Metro Manila, transportation was said to be about 60% paralyzed, especially late in the afternoon but reports said other urban centers and provincial capitals were hit hardest like the cities of Iloilo, Davao, Iligan, Pagadian, Cagayan de Oro, Marawi, Cebu and Nega.

Organizers also said about 10,000 workers throughout the country staged localized pickets in support of the protest action which demanded a rollback in oil prices.

But what gave a different and significant dimension to yesterday's welga was the participation of the middle class, which threw its support behind the protest action by massing at the Ugarte Field in Makati and later joining the march to Mendiola.

Members of the People's Caucus, an umbrella organization of 29 labor and cause-oriented groups, said the middle class' participation had shown that the Aquino government was slowly "being isolated" from that sector in society which had a hand in the February 1986 "People Power" revolution that ousted the Marcos regime.

Meanwhile, the education department said classes in all levels in the metropolis will resume today.

Classes in the elementary and high school levels were suspended yesterday as well as the night classes in colleges and universities due to the transport strike.

Former officials of the Aquino government like Reli German of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Linggoy Alcuaz of the National Telecommunications Commission, who now belong to the Lapian ng mga Tiananggal sa Gobyerno (Latigo), were among those who participated in the Makati rally.

Marcos loyalists also staged a rally at the Liwasang Bonifacio and joined the call by some cause-oriented groups for the resignation of President Aquino.

Police estimated that about 10,000 marched from Liwasang Bonifacio to the historic Mendiola Bridge near Malacanang where they voluntarily dispersed at about 6 P.M. after a brief program.

No major incidents were reported during the welga itself in sharp contrast to last October's mass action in which several buses and passenger jeepneys were burned.

But Bonifacio de Luna, chairman of the Ugnayan ng mga Grupo ng mga Asosasyon sa Transportation (Ugat) [Union of Transport Association Groups], said the strike would intensify today in the metropolis. Ugat is an alliance of 29 transport groups, including the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (Piston) [United Organization of Drivers Nationwide] and the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization-Alliance of Concerned Transport Operators (PCDO-Acto).

Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Herminio Coloma, however, assured the "uninterrupted supply of transport services" by fielding trucks and provincial buses to major routes in Metro Manila.

"We'd like to assure the public that we are prepared for whatever plans they have to disrupt transportation," he said.

The strike failed to get the support of other transport groups like the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (Fedjodap), Metro Manila Bus Operators Association (MMBOA) and the Provincial Bus Operators of the Philippines (PBOP).

Meanwhile, the People's Cause said they would continue and intensify their protest action unless their demands were met by the government.

Aside from the rollback in oil prices, they are asking the junking of the conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund in its new economic and financial agreement with the government.

Leaders also announced several protest moves, including a general industrial strike in Central Luzon today and a noise barrage at 6 P.M. in Metro Manila tomorrow.

Leto Villar, vice chairman of the Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement], said his group was prepared to launch a nationwide industrial strike "anytime" but would delay the move to "let the people reflect and realize that the oil price hike issue is not only a problem for the workers but for everyone."

He added: "This is a problem for the workers as well as a problem for those who arrest and harass the workers. It's about time that we set aside different political ideologies and collectively think of ways to solve the crisis. Kahit 'yung sinasabi nilang Cory resign at eleksyon, hindi ito 'yun kasagutan sa mga problema natin [The call for Cory to resign and to have elections, these are not the answers to our problems]."

Fuel Price Rollbacks Take Effect

HK1012115390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] At 1800 this evening [1000 GMT], prices of premium and regular gasoline will be rolled back. This means that beginning at 1800 tonight, according to the Energy Regulatory Board [ERB], prices for premium will be 15.95 pesos per liter and regular gasoline will be at 15.00 per liter.

Spokesman Comments on Results of Base Talks

HK0712141290 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 7 Dec 90

[By Rey Arquiza from the Department of Foreign Affairs—live or recorded]

[Text] The Philippines and U.S. panels were unsuccessful in resolving the various issues involving the U.S. military bases in the country during the last day of the third round of base talks. The only agreement reached was for both panels to meet in January 1991 for the fourth round of talks. Rafael Alunan, official spokesman of the Philippine panel, said that they would try their best to resolve the Status of Forces Agreement, SOFA, which includes criminal jurisdiction, custom laws, entry and departure, and other commercial concerns.

Aside from the ideas included in SOFA, to be discussed in the next round of talks will be issues such as operational use of military installations by the Americans and their duration in the country, to include access and compensation. The two countries are hopeful that at the end of January 1991 a new agreement could already be reached, though it would seem that they are racing against time to meet the deadline which they have set. Alunan added that in any relation with whatever country, the mother country's needs and future should be recognized.

It was learned during the news briefing that the only agreement reached was on the commercialization of Clark Air Base, although no details have been given yet. Prior to this, until the last day of the talks, the RP [Republic of the Philippines] and U.S. panels were unable to agree on the issue of criminal jurisdiction which is an important element of SOFA. Because of this, U.S. panel spokesman Stanley Schrager said that if no agreement on SOFA could be reached, the prospects for drafting a new treaty appeared dim. Both panels pledged to work harder during the next round round of talks to reach a final agreement. Negotiators were doubly careful, because any agreement entered into by both countries would reflect on the sovereignity of the Philippines as well as the full measure of equality and partnership by the U.S. with other countries the world over.

Senator Views Bases Agreeement

HK1012134990 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada says the Aquino Government is conditioning the public to accept the continued presence of U.S. bases, using the context of the Mutual Defense Treaty [MDT] [as heard]. According to Senator Tanada, even then they already knew of the MDT resolution in the Military Bases Agreement. This was included in a resolution authored by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile. Tanada further added that Enrile's resolution calls for abrogation or the invalidation of the MDT. It provides for mutual security ties between the two countries who pledge to support one another, especially during times of crisis. In an interview, Senator Tanada said that the security environment has been completely altered and the MDT has already become invalid. This is why it should no longer be included in the military bases issue.

In related matters, upon conclusion of the third round of bases talks last Friday, the Philippine panel seemed to have forgotten its prior position and instead promised to continue its security alliance with the United States. The Philippine panel also acknowledged that the U.S. bases are the principal security force in the Asia-Pacific region.

Editorial Discusses U.S. Ties

HK1012104090 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 10 Dec 90 p 6

["Editorial": "RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Ties Ensure Accord]

[Text] Malacanang and the Foreign Office have done well to play down the apparent differences of opinion between the Philippine and American negotiating panels on the bases issue with respect to peripheral matters. Such divergence of views does not necessarily denote discord, and it should not deter the mutual search for an early, fair, and just settlement of the bases question.

Local sources say the negotiations are stalled on matters of procedure brought up by the American panel, while American sources claim that the talks have hit a snag due to the stress laid by the Philippine panel on commercial questions. These matters, while undoubtedly important by themsevels, cannot overturn the essential harmony of positions between the Philippine and U.S. governments on fundamental questions of mutual security and defense, capped by mutual economic cooperation.

It is reassuring that Manila and Washington have recently signified confidence that a mutually acceptable agreement would be reached in due course on the future of U.S. military facilities in the Philippines. This confidence is borne out by the historical experience, which shows that the bonds that unite the Philippines and the United States have a way of overriding transient difficulties and differences. Judging from the long story of Philippine-American relations, "The ties that bind," as Senator Tydings, the senior author of the Philippine Independence law put it, would ensure a mutual accord on the future status of U.S. military installations and forces in the country.

In any event, our paramount concern in the bases negotiations ought to be, as always, the enhancement of the national interest.

Military Intelligence Fears Communist Gains

HK1012105490 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 10 Dec 90 pp 1, 8

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Slowly and with relative ease, the Communist movement is gaining the support of the middle and lower classes because of the worsening political and economic crisis, a military intelligence paper said.

Entitled "Perceptions on the Current Situation" and leaked over the weekend to the media, the paper reflected military fears that the leftist insurgency would gain ground because of the snowballing public outrage over the oil price increases.

The document cautioned government against imposing drastic measures which would push further the people towards the Communist line. It concluded that "the national bearing at the moment appears fragile yet explosive in the face of political and deep economic crisis induced by unexpected confluence of events."

In another development, the underground Young Officers Union [YOU] has accused Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa of plotting to take over the government in case the planned protest actions against the oil price increases become violent and uncontrollable.

"Overall, the situation is ripe for a civil strife to evolve," the intelligence document said. The oil price increases "could open a new venue for the Communist movement to conceive of a coalition that will attract both organized and unorganized individuals as well as independent organisations to unite on the grounds of common issues."

It continued: "Along this line, the CPP's (Communist Party of the Philippines') political call will not be unheeded since the sentiments of the great number of people gravitate towards this end." It was concerned that "even the previously unorganized and uninfluenced masses will unconsciously exhibit a national democratic consciousness susceptible to the extremist line of the CPP-NPA [New People's Army]."

Mass protests against the oil price increases, the paper said, might not be orchestrated by the CPP-NPA alone as previous military assessments had perceived because "political forces and other independent aggrupations [as published] are also morally obliged to stage mass actions in order to address the demands of their own component."

According to the intelligence assessment, the ensuing scenario will "unduly facilitate the propaganda activities of the communist movement and help in attaining a high level of intensity favourable to the advancement of its revolutionary aspirations."

The military rebels, however, have a different perception. They believe the crisis was instigated by the American government to allow Ramos and de Villa to take over from the "unpopular Aquino government."

"Sa kaguluhan at karahasan na idudulot ng mga protesta at daing ng mga mamamayan laban dito, sasamantalahin ng pangkating Ramos-de Villa ang kalagayan at aagawain ang kapangyarihang politikal at ang pamahalaan sa ngalan ng pagliligtas ng demokrasya at panunumbalik ng kaayusan" [The Ramos-De Villa faction would take advantage of the unrest and violence brought about by the protests and cries of the citizens. The faction would take advantage of the situation to wrest power from the government in the name of the restoration of democracy and the return of order], the one-page YOU statement sent to newspaper offices said.

The rebel statement was signed by Capt. Carlos Maglalang, YOU spokesman and Ka [Comrade] Gregorio Jacinto, spokesman for the military rebels' political arm, the Democratic Front for Filipinism (DFF).

The statement alerted the people against the alleged agenda of circles close to Ramos and de Villa who would supposedly instigate violence as a pretext for taking over the government.

A Camp Aguinaldo spokesman dismissed the YOU statement as a black propaganda against Ramos and de Villa.

Muslim Rebels Cite Conditions for Surrender

HK1112094190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 11 Dec 90

[By Restie de Quiros]

[Text] About 3,000 Muslim rebels under the Bangsa Moro [Moro Homeland] Liberation Organization [BMLO] who are scheduled to surrender to the government on 23 December are seeking the appointment of an undersecretary of defense for Muslim affairs and the enlistment of Muslim guerrillas into the Armed Forces. According to (Datu Norudina Alonto Lucman), BMLO national chairman, the creation of an undersecretary of defense for Muslim affairs is one of their preconditions for a reconciliation and the surrender of the Muslim rebels based in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. It was learned that (Lucman) and other BMLO officials are in Metro Manila negotiating with defense department and military officials for the final reconciliation program.

The initial surrender of about 1,500 BMLO members set last month failed due to the arrest of six government emissaries assigned to negotiate with the rebels. (Lucman) said the government panel was led by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos. The BMLO representatives and Ramos agreed to enlist the surrendering Muslim rebels in the Armed Forces active duty subject to availability of vacancies. Both panels have reportedly agreed on hiring former rebels as public school teachers. They would also be entitled to whatever benefits are provided for by the National Reconciliation and Development Program.

The negotiations with the rebels started in August, but the agreement was only reached last month. Still not agreed upon are two BMLO requests, one being the creation of an undersecretary of defense for Muslim affairs.

Thailand

Chatchai Addresses Journalists on Press Freedom

BK1112010390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan last night called on the Press to uphold responsibility and independence, while respecting the rule of law.

Freedom of information, he said, was the heart of democratic rule and helped all, including the government, to make sound decisions.

In his address to the National Journalists Assembly last night, the Prime Minister reminded the media, "operating with liberty under the democratic system", to respect the liberty of others as well.

"Freedom of information has become strongly rooted, to the extent that no one can uproot it unless you all so wish," he said.

The media should act as water, "reflecting the true temperature of and cleansing dirt in society."

With independence and arbitrariness segregated only by a thin line, the arbitrary usage of liberty may spawn anarchy, he said.

Congratulating the print media on the abrogation of Decree 42 which restricted press freedom Gen Chatchai said:

"Once you have that freedom, others have it too. It is necessary therefore to have rules of law that protect the rights and freedom of others... Those with pen in hand, who can speak through radio or television naturally have greater opportunity than the non-holders of media. Thus freedom must be used with care and caution, so as not to become privilege.

The Premier added that freedom would only be possible under a democratic system.

"The Press must act like water, which is vital to the human body although it has no flavour nor aroma. Likewise, society cannot do without bias-free information and opinion," he said.

"And just as water washes dirt away, the Press must do the same for society... Newspapers must act like water, that is, reflect the true picture and accurate temperature of society."

Gen Chatchai also asked the media to give his administration a fair chance, and report positive, constructive things that the administration had done to the country.

He pointed to the ban on logging nationwide, the Social Security Bill the refusal to comply with "unreasonable US demands" over intellectual property rights; the amendment of the Constitution to make the House Speaker become President of Parliament instead of the Senate Speaker; the improvement of relations with neighbouring countries; the inclusion of environmental considerations in all development plans; and increases in the minimum wage.

"These are the things people have called for for years, some issues over 30 years. But those accomplishments won only a few days of praise," he said.

Army Placed on 'Full Alert' in Northern Region

BK1112013190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Third Army Commander Lt-Gen Phairot Chanthaurai yesterday ordered a full alert for soldiers, police and border patrol police.

Lt-Gen Phairot issued the order in his capacity as director of the northern-based Third Army's Internal Security Operation Command.

He said no movement of forces is allowed without an order from superiors and they must be prepared to go on assignment as soon as they receive such an order.

No reason was given for the Third Army Commander's order.

'Unreliable Situation' Cited

*BK1112062690 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai
11 Dec 90 p 15*

[Text] As the politicians vigorously try to form a government, Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong, in his position as Bangkok peace-keeping director, has reportedly issued an order for all three branches of the armed forces and the police to be on 100 percent alert around the clock due to the unreliable situation following the prime minister's resignation. A new government is in the process of forming.

The police reportedly have been collecting information related to security, and monitoring crowded premises. Police have been prohibited from taking leave or traveling abroad. Security for senior individuals has been increased to prevent exploitation of the situation by third parties.

Military Role in Chatchai Resignation Examined

*BK1112011790 Bangkok THE NATION in English
11 Dec 90 p A1*

["Political Desk" report]

[Text] Military leaders publicly say they have nothing to do with the formation of Premier Chatchai Chunhawan's new Cabinet but behind-the-scenes talks on Friday revealed that "the military factor" came into play in Chatchai's decision to quit and be renominated.

The military leaders are playing their cards close to their chest, only stating publicly that they will watch and see how the new Cabinet is formed and how it performs in the future.

However, on Friday night, a quiet gathering at an undisclosed rendezvous was held between the premier and military leaders. What was discussed at the meeting supposedly led to Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's resignation the following day, and thus averted a damaging showdown with the military.

Present at the crucial talks were the premier, army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, his predecessor Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who now leads the New Aspiration Party, and Parliament President Wan Chansu, who was to play a key role in Chatchai's swift renomination after his resignation.

Chawalit was reportedly there to speak for Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong's faction in the armed forces and in his capacity as former military leader.

Chawalit and Suchinda reportedly assured the premier that in the process between his resignation and the formation of the new Cabinet, the armed forces would continue to maintain a hands-off position.

In the course of the talks, nonetheless, the army officers admitted that there appeared to be no alternative to Chatchai as prime minister because Chawalit was just not yet ready for the challenge.

The military side were of the opinion that Chatchai should seize the opportunity of his reappointment to restore the sagging popular support for him by replacing an infamous political partner—a clear reference to the Social Action Party [SAP]—with an opposition party with about the same number of MPs [members of parliament].

The premier reportedly acknowledged that SAP, besides being an obstacle to his efforts to effect a sweeping Cabinet reshuffle, was also a cause of his increasing unpopularity.

As a result, the formula that the Chat Thai, Solidarity and Democrat parties would form the core of the new ruling coalition figured prominently in the course of the exchange of views. It was a foregone conclusion that the five-MP Muan Chon Party of Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem Yubamrung would be kept outside the new government.

Chatchai also asked Suchinda for his opinion of what would be the best government under his premiership. The answers could be summarized as follows:

—If Chatchai wants to make it to the end of his four-year term, competent personalities recognized by the public should make up the new Cabinet.

—The premier should exercise political courage by breaking the monopoly of Cabinet posts by "senior politicians" and allowing qualified junior MPs to take Cabinet offices.

—Distribution of Cabinet portfolios to coalition partners should not be determined by the size of the respective parties.

At the meeting, Chatchai also renewed his overture for Chawalit to head the Defence Ministry in an apparent bid to ensure a smooth working relationship with the military. But Chawalit replied that he was not in a position to join the Cabinet because he was leading a newly-established political party without MPs.

Political observers concluded that the premier and the military had struck a compromise deal to avert a damaging showdown caused by Chaloem's continued presence in the Chatchai III Cabinet. In his resignation, the premier hinted at it with reference to "undersirable incidents" which could "threaten" the parliamentary system.

In other words, none of them were ready for a final showdown that could damage both the army leaders' reputation and force a disgraceful fall by Chatchai.

The general consensus was that the army chief had lent conditional support for the premier's continued leadership. Conditional, because of the army chief's proposition that the new coalition be based on a Chat Thai Democrat-Solidarity axis, pushing SAP into the Opposition.

If the support were not there, it would be extremely tough for the premier to come up with a "efficient, clean" Cabinet composed mainly of outsiders and junior politicians with little political clout in the coalition parties.

Reportage on Progress in Forming New Government

Party Leaders Comment

BK1012165490 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Social Action Party Secretary General Montri Phongphanit, reporting on developments concerning formation of the government, said that regarding the prime minister assigning the secretaries general of the Chat Thai, Democrat, and Social Action Parties to jointly consider formation of the government, that a meeting of those officials has already taken place but no conclusions were reached. Asked whether the new government will comprise the same parties as the previous government, Montri said the parties in the previous government will definitely be in the new government, but he cannot say at this time whether there will be other parties in the new government. Asked about the possibility of the new government being composed of five to seven parties, as earlier reported, Montri said he had no comment, noting that the matter is up to the prime minister. He thinks an answer will be known in 3-4 days, adding that only policy matters were being discussed at this time and which parties will take over which ministries has not been discussed yet. He thinks there will be some swapping of ministries from the previous cabinet. [passage omitted]

Deputy Chat Thai Party leader Pramuan Saphawasu, commenting on a report that either the Solidarity or the Social Action Party may have to be left out of the new government, said he did not know if this will cause a problem, but it is the intention of every political party to solve the country's problems. Newsmen should ask Chat Thai Party Secretary General Banhan Sinlapa-acha; Police General Praman Adireksan, the head of the party advisory team; and the prime minister. Asked to comment on this question in light of the fact that he was a person who wanted the Solidarity Party to join the government, Pramuan said he has friends in other parties too, not just the Solidarity Party.

Deputy Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai, asked by newsmen about the Solidarity Party joining the government, said he knew nothing about the matter, which has not been discussed. Asked if the 297 votes under government control is excessive, Chuan said the more support the government has, the better, because the government will be more stable, noting that the balance of power is not in the number of votes but in the performance. He said it is useless for the government to have an overwhelming majority, but have no achievements. He said the opposition's duty is to play its parliamentary role, and the Constitution does not specify how many votes the government or the opposition must command. [passage omitted]

A meeting of senior Democrat Party officials comprising deputy leader Chuan Likphai, Prachuap Chaiyasan, Charoen Khanthawong, and Secretary General Major General Sanan Khachonprasat was held at Democrat Party headquarters today. Reporting after the meeting, Sanan said the party held consultations on formation of a government and that the party will meet on Wednesday to define its stand. Referring to the prime minister assigning the secretaries general of the Chat Thai, Democrat, and Social Action Parties to jointly meet on formation of a government, newsmen asked Sanan why secretaries general of other parties that reportedly will join the government did not attend the meeting. Sanan explained that at the time the prime minister gave the assignment, only secretaries general of the three parties were present. He thinks the prime minister will invite secretaries general of other parties in the government to consult later. Asked if the Democrat Party set any conditions for joining the government, Sanan said this will have to await the outcome of the party meeting on 12 December. Asked about certain groups of members of parliament resenting the Solidarity Party joining the government, Sanan said that is not the case; he would know if it were so. He noted that the Chat Thai Party secretary general has invited the secretaries general of government parties to a consultation tomorrow. He has informed the Chat Thai Party secretary general that he will not be available.

Meanwhile, Democrat Party deputy leader Chuan Likphai reported that the party meeting today heard reports on current political developments by the party secretary general and Prachuap Chaiyasan, noting that at 1500 tomorrow the party Executive Committee and the party's members of parliament will meet to decide on the party's stand. No decisions were made today. He thinks formation of the government will take some time, but not as long as it took to form the last government.

Six-Party Government Reaffirmed

BK1112092790 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha reaffirmed that the new government will consist of six political parties and the new cabinet list will possibly be ready for royal approval by His Majesty the King within one week. This morning Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha told reporters the following:

[Begin Banhan recording] I would like to reaffirm that the government will consist of six parties, including the Chat Thai Party, the Solidarity Party, the Social Action Party, the Democrat Party, the Ratsadon Party, and the Puangchon Chaothai Party. We will begin to negotiate in the next two or three days on which parties will take care of what ministries. No one yet knows who will be in charge of what ministry. We will discuss this issue in the next few days. However, I would like to reaffirm again that the government will consist of six parties. The report about the Solidarity Party and the Social Action Party is not true. Both parties have agreed to join the government. Formation of the new government will take about one week. [end recording]

Solidarity Party To Join Coalition

BK1012132890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] Bangkok, Dec 10 (AFP)—The Solidarity Party, Thailand's largest opposition party, agreed on Monday to join the coalition government of Premier Chatchai Chunhawan.

Solidarity spokesman Athit Urairat told reporters that the party decided to join the government after talks with leading officials of Mr. Chatchai's Chat Thai Party. "We agreed in principal to join the new government. But we have not come up with any conditions yet. We have to discuss that with the prime minister," he said.

However the move has angered the Social Action Party (SAP), the largest member of the previous coalition after Chat Thai.

SAP leader Khukrit Pramot told the English-language BANGKOK POST newspaper that Solidarity and the SAP could not work together as members of the same government. He warned that Mr. Chatchai was creating trouble by bringing Solidarity into the new coalition and threatened to return his party to the opposition benches. "Solidarity has one way of doing things, we have another," said Mr. Khukrit.

Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, a senior member of the Thai Nation Party, said Monday that the new coalition would have no problems by including Solidarity. Mr. Banhan insisted that the new government would be "very stable."

Solidarity Spokesman's Statement

BK1012135990 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Text] The Solidarity Party held a meeting of party executive committee and party members, which lasted nearly three hours. Narong Wongwan, Solidarity Party leader, gave an interview after the meeting this afternoon.

[Begin Narong recording] The party met today, the meeting was attended by party members and the executive committee. The meeting analyzed all aspects of the political situation and decided to empower the party leader, secretary general, and deputy leader to decide among themselves based on national interest. The party has already received an official invitation, but the party has given the authority to the party leader, the party secretary general, and the deputy leader to make a decision. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Solidarity Party spokesman Athit Urairat said the following to newsmen:

[Begin recording] [Athit] We have been informed that the Solidarity Party has been officially invited to join the government.

[Unidentified correspondent] By the prime minister?

[Athit] Yes.

[Question indistinct]

[Athit] We assigned the party leader to have the sole responsibility.

[Correspondent] What other parties will be in the government?

[Athit] I do not know. I only know that we have been officially invited from the government, from the prime minister, to join the government and to consult on government formation.

[Second correspondent] Have you informed the prime minister that the party will join the government?

[Athit] I say that we have already been invited.

[Second correspondent] Have you accepted?

[Athit] What did the party chief say just now?

[First correspondent] He did not say.

[Athit] We did not reject the invitation.

[Second correspondent] Do you mean you will join the consultation on government formation tomorrow?

[Athit] They have invited us to join the government and to consult tomorrow; we have not rejected either of the two matters.

[Second correspondent] Does the consultation include the prime minister and the rest?

[Athit] I cannot say who will be involved in the consultation tomorrow; I do not know yet. But the party leader has said that we will make a formal statement tomorrow on the results of the consultation.

[First correspondent] This means tomorrow will tell whether or not the Solidarity Party will join the government?

[Athit] I think that I answered that question. That is, they have officially invited us to join the government and will invite us for consultation tomorrow. On these two issues, we have replied affirmatively. We will inform you tomorrow of the details.

[Second correspondent] Does the party still [words indistinct].

[Athit] The party leader has been entrusted with that. On this issue I ask that the results be made public tomorrow.

[Question indistinct]

[Athit] By the government party.

[First correspondent] [Words indistinct] the leader, meaning the prime minister?

[Athit] Yes, meaning the prime minister.

[First correspondent] So can it be assumed that the Solidarity Party will definitely join the government?

[Athit] It probably can be assumed. The person who will form the government has affirmed his invitation for us to join the government. [end recording]

Phalang Tham Refuses To Join Coalition

BK1012164090 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 10 Dec 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Phalang Tham Party leader Major General Chamlong Simuang has said his party definitely will not join the government.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The Phalang Tham Party will not join the government, is this correct?

[Chamlong] Definitely, since the situation has become clear now. We feel that the purpose of the resignation should be to benefit the country, not to extend his [Prime Minister Chatchai's] tenure. [end recording]

Chawalit Gives New Government 'Three Months'

BK1112012390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Dec 90 p A4

[By Kokhet Chantaloetluk]

[Text] New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday said he wished the new government would be able to survive another three months because by that time his party would be fully prepared for the next general election.

Chawalit, who has been active throughout the country preparing for his party's election campaign, was also sarcastic about reports the six prospective partners of the new ruling coalition led by Premier Chatchai Chunhawan were haggling over the best Cabinet posts. "It's so easy to form a new Cabinet. I advise the premier to pick the new ministers by drawing lots," he said.

The former army chief said, however, he wanted the new government to survive for a period. Then he added "three months."

Puzzled by Chawalit's "out-of-the-blue" remarks, reporters asked whether he was giving the government three months before the House is dissolved.

"Let me put it this way. We will be fully ready for a general election in three months," he said.

Speaking with reporters after an address to a gathering of members of the Confederation of Pathom Suksa Teachers Association, Chawalit said it is an easy matter for Chatchai to form the new Cabinet, but added that national problems and woes are apparently being forgotten in the negotiations to form the new administrative line-up.

Commenting on Chatchai's resignation, to return as premier, Chawalit said the political crisis which caused Chatchai to make the move should be tackled at the root.

"Was parliamentary support for the premier shaky? How many times will he reshuffle the Cabinet and how many more parties will he bring in? If you have appendicitis which causes a stomachache and you try to cure it by taking a pill to relieve your headache, then you would not be able to survive overnight," he said.

GATT Failure Blamed on Economic Powers

BK0912134590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on returned from a meeting of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks in Brussels, Belgium this morning. Speaking to reporters at the Bangkok Airport reception room upon his return, he said the meeting had failed and a new meeting would have to be convened, especially on agricultural products. This is because the European Economic Community, Japan, and South Korea had refused to compromise. Agricultural products is a long-standing issue because industrialized countries such as the United States, the European Economic Community, and Japan have subsidized their agricultural products and adopted protectionist measures against imports. This results in unfair trading to developing countries such as Thailand which cannot compete with these countries in terms of price although they have good quality products such as rice and sugar. Although the Thai Government has tried to promote the export of Thai agricultural products over the past 10 years, there have been trade problems with foreign countries. This is unfair to Thailand and other countries which produce quality agricultural products but cannot dump money to subsidize their products the same way developed countries can. Developed countries pay about 10,000 million U.S dollars to subsidize their agricultural products annually.

However, the Uruguay Round was not fruitless because it was the first time that the issue of agricultural products was raised for serious discussion. Developing countries were recognized and agricultural product exporting countries were able to unite to strengthen their bargaining power against big economic powers. This is a good sign for the next round of talks expected to be held in mid-January 1991.

Asked whether he was worried about the resignation of Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan, Commerce Minister Ammaret said that he was not because the resignation of the prime minister was just a change in politics. Politics can change either the prime minister or the commerce minister. He said that he had tried his best as commerce minister. If a new commerce minister is appointed to replace him, the work and policies will be continued because all officials of the Commerce Ministry possess knowledge and ability. The Commerce Ministry's policies are molded to the best interests of farmers and people. It depends on the capability of the minister to achieve the best results.

Asked whether the prime minister's resignation would open doors for the commerce minister to be replaced by a member of parliament from a political party, Amaret said political changes could take place at any time. Anyone can come and go; there will be no problem.

Vietnam

'Surprise Visit' by Cambodia's Hun Sen Reported

OW1112105990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 11 KYODO—Premier Hun Sen of Cambodia's Vietnam-backed government on Tuesday made an unofficial visit to Hanoi, informed sources in Hanoi said.

It was not immediately known how long Hun Sen will stay in Hanoi. He is likely to have talks with Vietnamese Premier Do Muoi and other national leaders during his stay in the Vietnamese capital, observers said.

The sources said he came to Hanoi to receive a master's degree for his thesis in philosophy in a ceremony at an institution of higher education.

Chinese Premier Li Peng is scheduled to visit Laos on Saturday, the first visit to Laos by a top-level Chinese leader since China invaded Vietnam in February 1979.

Observers in Hanoi said Premier Li may possibly have talks with Vietnamese Premier Do Muoi in Vientiane.

The observers said that the main purpose of Hun Sen's surprise visit to Hanoi may be to discuss the thorny issue of the chairmanship of an interim Supreme National Council (SNC) by the four rival Cambodian factions prior to Li Peng's scheduled visit to Vientiane.

The four warring factions have been deadlocked over the question of adding a chairman to the original 12-member formula in forming the Supreme National Council.

First Group of Workers Returns Home From Iraq

BK1012125990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 9 Dec 90

[From the 9 December review of NHAN DAN]

[Text] NHAN DAN carried on page 14 an article by Minh Thai dealing with the question of coming to Turkey to bring home the returning Vietnamese workers. The paper reads in part:

Vietnam has around 16,000-17,000 workers in Iraq. Our state has done its utmost to seek Iraq's approval of a request to bring home across the Iraqi-Turkish border sick workers, those who have had occupational accidents, those work whose contracts have expired, and women.

The first group of Vietnamese workers has been sent home safely by air. This was possible thanks to the responsible organs of Vietnam, the effective cooperation of the Government and people of Turkey, and the cooperation of the IOM [expansion unknown] working team in Ankara led by Mssrs. (Andre Domicio) and (Duden Finn).

Eighth National Assembly Session Continues

BK1112070890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Today, 11 December, the Eighth National Assembly's eighth session entered its sixth day. In the morning, deputies continued group discussions on the draft strategy for our country's socioeconomic development up to the year 2000 and on the orientations, objectives, and tasks of the 1991-95 plan.

During these group discussions, the deputies concentrated on analyzing the advantages as well as difficulties that will be encountered in 1991 and in ensuing years. They said: 1991 will be a year of great difficulties in supplying materials and generating capital. To achieve our industrial and agricultural objectives as pointed out in the report of the Council of Ministers, we should—apart from measures such as continuing to organize and rearrange production and mobilizing all sources of capital—work out promotional policies for industrial and agricultural development with an emphasis on developing various economic components. The state-run economic sector should, however, continue to retain its leading role. At present, our country is exercising an open-door economic policy. We should attach importance to broadening the scope of the law on investment to attract more foreign investment.

Other issues discussed included solving the unemployment problem; measures to improve the living standards of cadres, workers, and state employees; implementation of the system of benefit policies accorded to families of disabled soldiers and fallen heroes; the question of ensuring the democratic liberties of the people, especially those in the rural areas; the need to fairly and promptly deal with corruption; the policy of investing in economic and cultural development in the mountain region; and so forth.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will hold a plenary session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall.

Leaders Make Statements

BK1012152190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Portions recorded]

[Summary] "On 7 and 8 December, National Assembly deputies held group discussions on the draft strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development up to the year 2000 and the orientations and plan for socioeconomic development for 1991-95.

Almost all opinions raised during these discussions favored the draft strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development and the orientations and plan for the 1991-95 socioeconomic development."

Comrade Nguyen Hong Vien, National Assembly deputy from Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province, said:

[Begin recording] As for the draft strategy [for socioeconomic development] up to the year 2000, we think that our Gia Lai-Cong Tum Province, between now and the year 2000, should build more roads to accommodate traffic, increase activities concerning settled farming and settled life, and develop production to improve the people's living standards in keeping up with those in the lowlands." [end recording]

National Assembly deputies from various mountain provinces such as Ha Tuyen, Cao Bang, Hoang Lien Son, Lai Chau, Lam Dong, Dac Lac, and Gia Lai-Cong Tum contributed numerous suggestions to the draft strategy. They "unanimously proposed that the state pay attention to investing in the mountain region more high-quality crop seeds and animal species." A deputy from Lai Chau further proposed that "the state should invest in building the infrastructure of the mountain region, including roads, schools, hospitals, and so forth and should also pay attention to afforestation work."

Comrade Nguyen Xuan Du, deputy from Lam Dong Province, asked "why gross social product is declining." May National Assembly deputies were of the same view as Comrade Nguyen Xuan Du. They called for rechecking the method used to evaluate socioeconomic development over the years. "They are afraid that the targets for 1991 economic development as outlined in a report is rather high because the situation in 1989 and 1990 was more favorable than that in 1991." Deputy Nguyen Xuan Du added:

[Begin recording] Given the fact that the prices of raw materials and some consumer goods in Vietnam will be jacked up to conform to international prices, what standard should be based to determine the laboring people's wages? [end recording]

"During its 8 December morning group discussion, the delegation of Hanoi deputies, including Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and other comrades, such as Le Quang Dao, Nguyen Cong Tang, Hoang Quy, Le Duc Anh, and others, discussed in detail the agricultural prodution situation and especially the measures to bring agricultural materials directly into the peasants' hands. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh pointed out that, given current world events, we should take the initiative in broadening our direct cooperation and exchange with other countries to generate more capital and raw materials for production. Our export efforts over the years have improved, but are still unorganized. In the future, we should increase our consumer goods exports. Hard currencies earned from exports should be used to import goods that cater to production instead of importing luxury goods."

Many deputies raised the question of how to solve the unemployment problem. Comrade Nguyen Thi To Cang, deputy from Hanoi, said:

[Begin recording] As for the 1991 plan, what matters to me the most is employment of the laboring people, especially those youths who have just graduated from universities and general schools and discharged soldiers. I think we should solve this problem through increased production efforts, and I also favor all the measures set forth by the Council of Ministers to solve socioeconomic problems in 1991. [end recording]

Comrade Pham Viet Duoc, deputy from Haiphong, said:

[Begin recording] Because our country is entering 1991 with difficult challenges, we should strive to maintain and develop our socioeconomic activities. We should always link our economic policy with social policy. [end recording]

Comrade Pham Hung, deputy from Hai Hung, raised the question of how to fight corruption and waste in state-run economic activities. He said:

[Begin recording] To achieve good results, we should appoint honest and brave people to lead anticorruption activities. [end recording]

"Dear friends: With a high sense of responsibility toward voters, all the participants to today's [8 December] session of the Eighth National Assembly will continue to discuss various socioeconomic tasks to be carried out by our country."

Anniversary of Vietnamese-Cuban Relations Marked

NHAN DAN Praises Ties

BK1012035390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Dec 90

[Text] The paper NHAN DAN on 1 December carried an article entitled: "Thirty Years of Fine Vietnamese-Cuban Relations." The article said in part: The official establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Cuba 30 years ago was an important event ushering in the new stage of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples.

Cuban national hero Jose Marti was the first architect of the friendly relations between Vietnam and Cuba. Since late in the last century, he wrote articles hailing the Vietnamese people's fine tradition and expressed the belief that the Vietnamese people's struggle against foreign aggressors would undoubtedly succeed. After the two nations regained independence and freedom and engaged in socialist construction, relations between Vietnam and Cuba developed vigorously thanks to the traditional friendship between the two countries.

Cuban Ambassador's Statement

BK1012081190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 2 Dec 90

[Statement by Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Armando Saucedo Yero on 30th anniversary of Vietnamese-Cuban diplomatic relations; place, date not given—recorded in Spanish fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During the past three decades, Vietnam and Cuba—two socialist, nonaligned nations—have carried out many activities. Both nations have progressed in the international arena toward independence, nations' sovereignty, and peace and world development. The relationship and cooperation between our two nations is a brilliant example of proletarian internationalism.

For many years, hundreds of Cuban and Vietnamese scientists and specialists have been working side by side in various important fields, including animal husbandry, agriculture, public health, information, and national defense for the benefit of the two nations. It is difficult to fully describe the manifestation of solidarity and fraternal support of peoples of the two countries, such as in the October crisis and the Vietnamese people's heroic struggle against U.S. aggression. At such difficult moments, there emerged the friendship and spontaneous assistance and support between the two peoples. Despite a strict embargo imposed against us for quite a long time, our relations and cooperation have developed consistently and our consensus in politics has helped strengthen our solidarity and determination to triumphantly build a socialist society.

Vietnam and Cuba, situated respectively in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, are the unyielding combatants of socialism. Each nation is struggling, in its unique conditions, to develop and improve the daily life of its heroic people. I believe Cuba and Vietnam will remain ready to strengthen their solidarity to fight for a better world.

On this occasion, I would like to thank the Vietnamese party, government, and people for their consistent friendship, solidarity, and support extended to the Cuban party, government, and people.

Fidel Castro Sends Greetings

BK1012100990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Cuba [ROC] and the SRV, Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State and Council of Ministers of the ROC, on 2 December sent a message of greetings to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; and Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Minsiters of the SRV. The message reads:

The establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Vietnam marked the development of the friendship and solidarity which had been forged in the common struggle against imperialists and consolidated over the years through the close and effective cooperation between our two nations. We take pride in this friendship. On this significant occasion, we would like to reassure you, comrades, of our readiness to develop all our cooperative relations for the benefit of the two peoples.

On this occasion, Cuban Foreign Minister Peoli Malmierca also sent his greetings to Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

Dao Duy Tung Meets Cuban Youths

BK0912050390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] At the invitation of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU] Central Committee, the Cuban Communist Youth Union [CCYU] delegation led by Comrade (Roberto Torbina), alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Political Bureau and first secretary of the CCYU arrived in Vietnam 1 December for a visit.

On 3 December, Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee cordially received the Cuban delegation at the party Central Committee guest house. Comrade (Roberto Torbina) conveyed President Fidel Castro's greetings to Vietnamese party and state leaders.

During its stay in Vietnam, the delegation visited Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, home, and office. The delegation held a working session with the HCMCYU Central Committee Secretariat delegation led by Ha Quang Du, first secretary of the HCMCYU Central committee. Meanwhile, Nguyen Thi Dinh, member of the CPV Central Committe cum vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the Vietnam- Cuba Friendship Association, and General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the CPV Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, also held cordial meetings with the Cuban delegation.

The delegation also visited Tien Son District, Ha Bac Province, to study methods and measures applied by the district to resolve unemployment among youth, especially those pursuing traditional occupations.

On 4 December, the Cuban delegation left Hanoi for Cuba, concluding its successful visit to Vietnam.

Lao-Vietnamese Friendship Assocation Visits

BK0912164990 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 9—A delegation of the Laos-Vietnam Friendship Association led by Bouasi Lovanxay, vice president of the association, has paid a friendship visit to Vietnam as guest of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association.

While here, the delegation paid tributes at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and attended celebrations of Laos's 15th National Day in various economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi and other localities. It had a working session with a delegation of the host association on the promotion of cooperation between the two associations in the coming period of time.

It was received by Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

Thai Daily, VNA Sign Cooperation Protocol

BK0812160890 Hanoi VNA in English 1440 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 8—A delegation of Vietnam News Agency led by its Deputy Director General Ho Tien Nghi paid an official visit to Thailand from December 4-7 at the invitation of The Nation Publishing Group.

On December 6, Ho Tien Nghi, on behalf of VNA and Suthichai Yun, editor-in-chief and publisher of THE NATION on behalf of The Nation Publishing Group, signed a protocol on professional cooperation between the two news organizations. Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung and Thanachai Therapatvong, president of The Nation Publishing Group, (? initialed) the signing.

Under the protocol, Vietnam News Agency and The Nation will open their bureaus respectively in Bangkok and Hanoi as well as will exchange correspondents and delegations. The Nation Publishing Group will help in the training of VNA staff on news writing, editing, photo-journalism and computer technology related to writing, printing, marketing and promotion.

While in Bangkok, the VNA delegation had working sessions with leaders of The Nation Publishing Group, and visited the office of THE NATION.

Earlier, Ho Tien Nghi, on behalf of the Vietnam Journalists' Association, had attended an international conference of journalists on the establishment of a new information order and cooperation between the mass media of non-aligned and developing countries held in New Delhi, India. He also visited the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA.

Asian Music Festival Opens in Ho Chi Minh City

BK0912125490 Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 9—The 8th Asian Music Rostrum was opened in Ho Chi Minh City last Friday, 7 December, under the joint sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Tourism and the municipal people's committee.

Participating in the rostrum are representatives of the national television and radio organizations from Laos, Cambodia, the Soviet Union, Mongolia, Pakistan, India and Vietnam. Also present are delegates from four international organizations including the International Music Council (IMC), the UNESCO regional office for Asia and the Pacific, the International Organization of Radio and Television (OIRT) and the East and West Centre of the United States.

Vietnam sent two 60-minute selected music tapes, produced by the Voice of Vietnam Radio, the Ho Chi Minh City Radio People's Voice, and the Can Tho television, on different genres of folk music, ritual music, classical opera and music of ethnic minorities in the central highlands.

At the opening ceremony, Prof. Tran Van Khe, honorable member of the International Music Council, said that the UNESCO-sponsored selection of Vietnam's traditional musical works have arrested the attention of musicians and musical researchers. He expressed the hope that the rostrum would help Asian peoples have more opportunities to better understand each other's traditional music and further strengthen their solidarity and cooperation for social progress.

Joint-Venture Fisheries With Thailand Reported

BK0812090290 Hanoi VNA in English 0656 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 8—Vietnam and Thailand have agreed in principle to cooperate in fishery development and are preparing to establish joint ventures in fishery services, aquaculture, and sea product processing in Vietnam in 1991.

The agreement was reached during a visit here from November 21 to 25 by a delegation of Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives led by Dr. Ploprasop Suratsawadi, general director of the Sea Products Department.

The two sides plan to set up a joint fishing fleet, build logistic facilities, upgrade a number of sea product canneries in Vietnam and build a ship yard and repair workshop in Ho Chi Minh City.

Earlier, the two sides had agreed to establish a joint committee to study possibilities for oil exploration in the region adjoining the two countries in the Gulf of Siam.

Economic News, Foreign Joint Ventures Reported

BK0912165190 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 9—The BGI Company of France has set up a joint venture with the Chuong Duong Soft Drink Factory in Ho Chi Minh City. The joint venture has a prescribed capital of ten million U.S. dollars, of which six million have been invested by the BGI Company in acquiring new equipment. Under the contract, BGI will transfer technology and send specialists to help the Chuong Duong Factory. In the first phase, the joint venture will produce 50 million bottles and 25 million cans of soft drinks.

Under a contract with the Castrol Lubricant Oil of Britain, the Saigon Shipchanco has served as its British partner's sole distributor of lubricant oil to the shipping and other industries in Vietnam.

In the past six months, the automatic filature of Bao Loc District in the central highlands province of Lam Dong exported more than 20 tons [tonnes] of high-quality natural silk, earning more than 700,000 U.S. dollars.

With a number of high-quality crossbred silkworm varieties and foreign technical assistance, Bao Loc's silk products were highly appreciated at the Munich Fair in Germany.

At present, Bao Loc District has grown over 7,000 hectares of mulberry with intensive investments of companies from Japan, South Korea and Bulgaria, which totally are worth ten million U.S. dollars.